Palacios appoints Kiyoshi as King-Hinds' replacement to CPA board. PAGE 2
CPA grants MOU for Amelia Earhart monument. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Transportation Security Administration personnel demonstrate the use of its new Check Baggage Inspection System

TSA unveils new automated baggage screening system

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gone are the days when Saipan Transportation Security Administration personnel had to manually haul and screen outbound checked-in baggage thanks to a new, state-of-the-art baggage

See TSA on Page 4

Palacios reiterates appeal to repeal–or at least delay–touchback provision

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If given a chance, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios certainly would like to reiterate his appeal to President Joseph Biden and U.S. Congress to repeal or at the very least delay the implementation of the "touchback" provision of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, which is due to go into effect in a week.

Palacios

Palacios, in an interview, said as of yesterday he has not received any development regarding the "touchback" provision from the Biden-Harris administration.

He said they had already asked U.S. Congress and U.S. Homeland Security to repeal or delay the implementation and they are still hoping to receive good development.

See PALACIOS on Page 4

MVA: We respect CPA's prerogative in increasing rates

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority says it respects CPA's decision to increase rates, however, airlines have expressed concerns.

Concepcion

In an interview with MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, he said MVA respects and understands why CPA needed to increase their fees significantly during these tough times.

"We respect CPA's prerogative in increasing rates. We understand that they have an

See MVA on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
8

Mayors air frustrations with DPL chief

CHRYSTAL MARINO
From left, Rota Mayor Aubry M. Hocog, Northern Islands Mayor Valentino N. Taisacan, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, and Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho gather for a press conference yesterday at Sunny Side Cafe in Garapan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The issue of coral aggregate to level uneven village roads on Saipan and other issues appear to have rocked the relationship

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Dante Suarez Conlu and his wife, Lot, are veterans of the food service industry on Saipan and they recently opened their own restaurant.
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NATION
President Joe Biden will use his executive authority to create a New Deal-style American Climate Corps.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Kevin Costner and his wife of nearly 19 years, Christine Baumgartner, have reached a settlement in their divorce.
PAGE 19

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Local

Palacios appoints Kiyoshi as King-Hinds' replacement to CPA board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed Dolores Pangelinan Kiyoshi to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors, representing Tinian and Aguiguan.

Palacios confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Kiyoshi will replace CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, whose term is expiring this October.

» Ayuyu, Mesngon are also appointed to CPA board

The governor said Kiyoshi previously served in the U.S. military.

Palacios has also appointed Jose C. Ayuyu and Steve King Mesngon to serve as members of the CPA board, representing Saipan and Northern Islands, and Rota, respectively.

Palacios informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) on Wednesday of his nomination of Kiyoshi to the CPA board.

If confirmed by the Senate, Kiyoshi will serve a staggered term, expiring on Oct. 7, 2027.

Palacios said he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident in Kiyoshi's leadership to carry out the function and mandates of the CPA board.

Palacios said they are confident that the nominee is qualified and will be an asset to the CPA board.

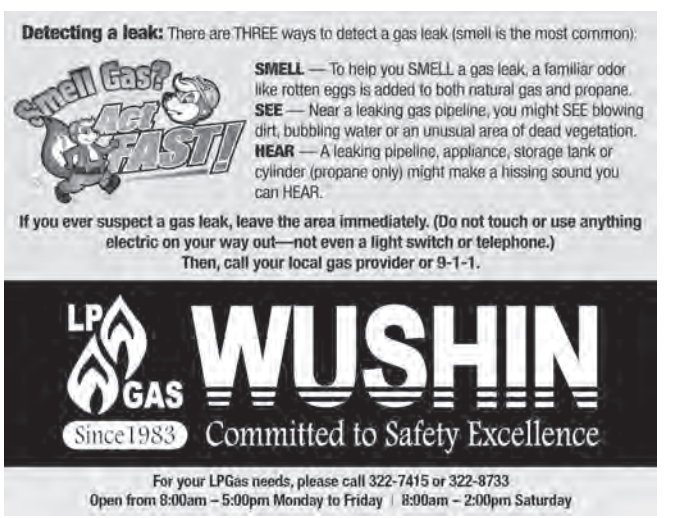
The Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan wrote a letter recently to Palacios to re-nominate atty. King-Hinds to serve another term.

Regarding Ayuyu's appointment, if confirmed by the Senate, he will serve a staggered term, expiring on Oct. 7, 2027.

Palacios said he and Apatang are confident that Ayuyu is qualified and will devote his time and efforts to represent the interest of the community in the board.

In confirmed by the Senate, Mesngon will serve the unexpired term of Barrie C. Toves, which will expire on Oct. 7, 2025.

Palacios said he and Apatang are confident that Mesngon's many years of service with the private sector and government will be an asset to the CPA board.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CPA grants MOU for Amelia Earhart monument

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Months after the idea was brought before the board, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has officially granted the Amelia Earhart non-profit organization's request for a memorandum of understanding essentially kick-starting the construction of a monument in honor of the female aviator at the Saipan International Airport.

Recently, the CPA board approved an MOU between the agency and the Amelia Earhart non-profit organization that would allow the organization to start the process of constructing a monument honoring Earhart.

"We approved the MOU between the CPA and the Amelia Earhart non-profit organization who has been championing the erection of a monument here at the airport to commemorate the contributions of Amelia Earhart—as a woman in the aviation industry. So, we approved that MOU allowing them to construct the monument here on Airport grounds," said CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

King-Hinds specified that there are no details yet about the specifics of the monument but the MOU is the first step and allows the organization to identify where the monument will be placed.

King-Hinds said that the board and members of the CNMI community initially opposed the idea of an Amelia Earhart monument. but with the relentless efforts made by the organization's Rosalia Castro and Manny Borja, CPA was finally able to get on board.

"Rosalia Castro and Manny Borja, God bless them. They have been championing this effort for as long as I can remember. They initially got a resistance from the board because one of the things they wanted to include in this commemorative monument relates to her disappearance so some of the push back by some of the board members and the community was that we don't want to be fact finders about what happened to Amelia Earhart. But we do join in on the idea of wanting to celebrate her accomplishments in general in the aviation industry and as a woman and first female aviator that attempted an "around-the-world" flight. It's something that's super noteworthy," she said.

King-Hinds added that although she didn't have strong feelings about the monument itself, she really pushed for the passing of the MOU because of Castro's perseverance.

"Something more noteworthy is Rosalia's commitment to this cause. That woman persevered and persisted. Honestly, I didn't have any feelings either way about the Amelia Earhart monument, but I have very strong feelings about Rosalia's commitment, and I wanted to support her and so I wanted to move this agenda along before my term was up because I wanted to recognize her efforts. She's phenomenal and I know she's not going to get everything she wants regarding her vision of the monument, but I hope this is a starting point. So, I voted in recognition of her persistence and to honor her," she said.

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Sen. Manglona says conferees at impasse on suspension of holidays

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the bicameral conference committee deliberating on a budget bill for the government's operations for fiscal year 2024 is at impasse of sorts with regards to how many holidays they are going to suspend.

Manglona, who chairs the Senate conference committee, disclosed at a Senate session, that the Senate committee has agreed to no more than five holidays they are going to suspend, but the House of Representatives committee is proposing additional holiday suspension unless there is an assurance that the Senate members will agree to some of the proposed legislation that the House will prefile in the coming days.

He said some of these proposals include an increase in sugar sweetened beverage tax, tobacco tax, and betel nut tax.

"I know they have a bill, the construction tax, that I think it's in the committee or will be acted on by the House and that's something that they hope that the Senate can consider," Manglona said.

He said, however, these tax increases will be used to address shortfalls in Medicaid funding as well as Group Health Life Insurance payment.

Manglona said he hopes that the Senate members favor these tax increases provided that these increases devote specifically to GHLI and Medicaid.

He said he is open to any suggestions as to the tax rate that they are going to add on to the current tax structure for tobacco.

The conferees will resume deliberations today, Friday, to come up with a mutually agreed budget bill.

Tinian International Airport renamed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Tinian International Airport has been renamed and is now known as Francisco Manglona/Tinian International Airport.

According to Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, after months of waiting, the Tinian International Airport has officially been renamed to Francisco Manglona/Tinian International Airport.

"CPA just recently received our Airport Operating Certificate for Tinian reflecting the name change of the Tinian International Airport to Francisco Manglona/Tinian International Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration gave it to us during their last visit," she said.

King-Hinds said that this request was made by the Tinian Municipality to honor Manglona's lifelong commitment to serving the Tinian community.

"This was an ask from the Tinian Leadership and I'm just really happy we were able to do it and to be able to honor somebody whose life exemplifies public service and specifically somebody who has been very committed to the development of Tinian's economy. I'm just happy we were able to do it in time and we were able to get this certificate," she said.

The CPA board chair shared that Francisco Manglona was a two-time mayor who served as a congressman, a senator, and was Senate president at one point. However, even before getting into politics, Manglona served in law enforcement.

"He dedicated all his life to public service and was always one of those advocates for Tinian's economic development and the leadership wanted to honor his service. Everybody [on Tinian] sees the airport as the primary economic engine so they want to do this to commemorate his service to the Tinian community," she said.

King-Hinds said CPA is in the process of making changes to the Tinian Airport to reflect the name change.

"We are really happy about that. We're in the process of making the necessary procurement to make the changes at the airport to reflect the change," King-Hinds said.

TSA

From page 1

screening system that was officially unveiled to the public yesterday.

Yesterday, TSA spokesperson Lorie Dankers took local media outlets on a tour of its new Check Baggage Inspection System which essentially automates nearly the entire process of screening checked-in baggage at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

During the tour, Dankers and TSA personnel showed local media outlets the entire process beginning from when a baggage is taken at a ticket counter, up until it is loaded into its respective aircraft.

"We are so happy here on Saipan to have a new check baggage inspection system that automates a lot of the functions that were previously done manually. The main benefits of the new system is that it's completely automated and it brings the bags directly from the ticket counter, through the system's screening process, if bag needs to be physically checked it can be automatically diverted to inspection stations and at the station itself, it has those tables that slide the bags from the station to the conveyor belt and its essentially a great system for our employees. It's a seamless system for our security process," she said.

The system, which can scan over 700 bags per hour per unit, focuses mainly on uncovering explosives and ensuring that it doesn't get onto any aircraft because it can be catastrophic.

According to Dankers, before the system was built, when bags were checked in at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, that a bag would go onto a conveyor belt to a room were TSA personnel had to manually move the baggage into a 3D x-ray unit that screened the bag and it would come out of that stand-alone unit and it would be placed in the respective Aircraft if there are no threats.

Then, if it needed to be inspected further, TSA personnel would again manually move it to a different station to be inspected.

Now, the beauty of the new system, Dankers said, is all of this is automated.

"It prevents our officers from having to move heavy bags from one location to another, and more importantly it ensures that every step of that checked bag's screening process is automated so that we can ensure that we are doing our jobs well," she said.

The most notable part of the process, for the *Saipan Tribune*, was the capability of the new scanner to single out certain items within a closed, tightly packed luggage and produce a 3D image of a questionable item which allows TSA to reserve the need to manually open and search the baggage.

Dankers shared that the $13-million project took over five years.

"This project, from start to finish, from planning to execution, and the certification took over five years. It's a complicated system of conveyor belts. Of course, the key component is the system's explosives detection units that screens every piece of checked baggage for any type of explosives," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MVA

From page 1

organization to run, and they need to recoup their costs. We respect their stance on it," he said.

However, during a regular board meeting yesterday, South Korea travel partners expressed their concerns for CPA's recent increase.

Specifically, low-cost carriers traveling to the CNMI from South Korea are expecting to pay $3,000 more per flight once these new rates are implemented next month.

Concepcion reiterated this in his interview.

"Of course, here at the MVA, we hear the concerns of the airlines separately from what CPA hears and of course they've indicated their concerns that increasing costs of operating at the Saipan airport is going to affect their bottom line and profitability of this route," he said.

Concepcion said MVA is trying to find ways to allow CPA to recoup its cost while also helping airline and travel partners.

"So, we communicate closely with our partners at CPA and the airlines and we're going to try to find a way to make this work for everybody. We're in close communication with the administration as well. The governor's office has indicated their support to see what we could do to make sure that if there's an increase, someway somehow, we balance it out so we don't lose the momentum we have right now and the number of tourists coming into the CNMI," he said.

Last month, CPA adopted a new rate methodology that reflects a whopping 90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal rental fees.

Specifically, CPA adopted a 90% increase in landing fees for both the Saipan airport's main terminal and the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In addition, the CPA board also adopted a 79% increase in its current terminal rental rate for both the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport's main terminal and for the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

With the newly adopted budget, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Saipan International Airport's main terminal goes up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals is now up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA will now be charging international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand pounds of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01. As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase would bring landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

Aside from the increase in rates, the CPA board also adopted an eight-hour cut for all CPA employees and suspended its airline incentive program.

In addition, CPA also increased the current parking rate at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport parking lot.

All these changes will take effect come fiscal year 2024, which starts on Oct. 1, 2023.

DPL

From page 1

between the islands' mayors and Department of Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos with majority of them supporting a petition for her removal.

Led by Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho, the chief executives of the CNMI's three other municipalities—Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, Rota Mayor Aubry M. Hocog, and Northern Islands Mayor Valentino N. Taisacan—held a press conference yesterday at the Sunny Side Café in Garapan.

Camacho said that he had initiated the meeting to further address the issues with Santos and also make a call to the public to join his petition for Santos' removal.

"I initiated this meeting and I called my colleagues because we have an issue, specifically on Saipan. Of course, it's also going to affect Tinian and Rota. Right now, there's a road block to get the coral to help repair all these roads. As we have seen, there are a lot of defective roads on the island but still no action. There's already a drafted petition to mandate the governor to remove the secretary of Public Lands from her position," he said.

Taisacan said he's in full support of Camacho's petition for the governor to let go of Santos.

"I do support it as it's not only for us mayors but for our people. Right now, in the Northern Islands we have a lot of issues too with regards to public lands. They haven't even issued out land claims, that's been pending since the early 2000 so those are the issues that I'm looking at to address."

Taisacan also questioned DPL's non-action on quit claim deeds filed the past over 20 years by bona fide Northern Islands residents and their statutory claim to village homestead deeds.

"There are 80 lots that have been divided and up to this day I haven't seen anything moving yet for the rest of the other islands too."

Aldan, for his part, said there are definitely some issues that islands mayors want to bring to the attention of the DPL secretary, but there seems to be a disconnect when it comes to communication.

"We still need to sit down and look at those designated public land for commercial purposes and we need to engage in dialogue."

As for Camacho's petition to remove Santos, Aldan believes all four mayors are united and all of them need to support one another.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From page 1

The governor said they are mindful that anything about immigration is very sensitive right now in U.S. Congress. "We're hoping that they will understand our situation," he pointed out.

Palacios said something they need to take a look at and begin to address, even the businesses, is how they can stagger the years and the number of workers who are going to take a touchback this year, versus next year, rather than have all of them leave at once.

"We made a pitch. I know the [Saipan Chamber of Commerce] and members of the business community have gone to Washington, D.C. [to get support]. And we're still very hopeful. We always got to be hopeful," he said.

The governor said he reiterated the need for urgent congressional support for legislation on that specific issue during a recent U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources oversight field hearing in Guam.

"Every opportunity that I have and I get it," he said.

Palacios repeatedly stated in previous statements that the "touchback" provision will adversely impact many businesses in the CNMI when implemented.

NMC alumna's dedication to CNMI's healthcare needs

After the warmth and friendliness of the CNMI community convinced her to call Saipan home, Lucy Lu Pangelinan decided to serve the island community as an advanced practice registered nurse on Saipan after studying nursing at Northern Marianas College.

Pangelinan is part of the long list of NMC alumni contributing to the local healthcare workforce. For the past eight years, she has been an integral part of the Marianas Medical Center, specializing in family medicine. Her expertise spans a wide range of patient care, including women's health, pregnancy, infants, children, and adult health to geriatrics. In addition to her primary care, she also excels in preventative healthcare, acute care, and managing chronic diseases.

NMC

Northern Marianas College graduate Lucy Lu Pangelinan has been integral part of the Marianas Medical Center the past eight years.

When looking back at her time at NMC, Pangelinan found the start of her healthcare journey through the college.

"NMC laid the foundation for my love of health care," Pangelinan said. "I started in nursing because I love to understand the science of how we get sick and how to get better. NMC gave me the choice in healthcare that led me to advance in the field later on."

Pangelinan also mentions the local community suffering from chronic diseases as a reason why she took on the profession.

"Because the CNMI has a high population of chronic diseases, I was determined to learn how to help our people here understand and prevent and maintain health for the better," Pangelinan said. "Although I'm not originally from Saipan, I grew up here and consider this my home."

Pangelinan also shared a message of encouragement for aspiring and upcoming nursing students as well as people interested in nursing and medicine.

"Take the chance and the opportunity in front of you," Pangelinan said. "Although the world was ahead of me after high school, I decided to stay where I was and pursue what was available, and that eventually led to more opportunities to expand my roles. Now I can take that foundation and go anywhere, as can you."

She added, "We need more of our local workforce. For decades we've had to import healthcare resources. Just have an inkling that you can, and eventually you will! Do it for your islands and your people. Do it for yourself and you will be more than rewarded."

Pangelinan's educational journey began at NMC, where she earned her Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts and an Associate in Science in Nursing. While working full-time as a registered nurse (RN), she continued her studies, completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming and obtaining her Master of Science in Nursing from Indiana State University. In 2015, she obtained her certification as a certified family nurse practitioner (FNP-C) and subsequently joined the Marianas Medical Center team. ***(PR)***

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Senate confirms nomination of Sablan, Rabauliman, David, Chong

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, second from left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, extreme right, pose for a group photo with, from left, Francisco M. Rabauliman, Phyllis Seman Chong, Tania Sophia P. David, and Michael S. Sablan, in the Office of the Governor's conference room yesterday afternoon. The Senate confirmed the nomination of Rabauliman, David, and Sablan to serve on the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of directors, and the nomination of Chong to serve on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The full Senate unanimously confirmed yesterday morning the appointment of Michael S. Sablan, Francisco M. Rabauliman, and Tania Sophia P. David to serve as members of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of trustees, and Phyllis Seman Chong to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees.

During the Senate session, all nine senators voted "yes" to adopt the Senate Executive Appointments & Government Investigations Committee's reports that recommend confirmation of the four nominees.

Sablan, Rabauliman, David, and Chong subsequently took oath

of office yesterday afternoon before Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang in the governor's office conference room.

Sablan was re-nominated to serve on the CEDA board to represent Saipan and Northern Islands. He will serve the remaining of a four-year term that will expire on Sept. 25, 2024.

Sablan's term as a CEDA member was supposed to expire on Sept. 25, 2024, but he resigned last Jan. 13 out of courtesy to the new Palacios-Apatang administration.

EAGI Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said the nominee is a U.S. certified public accountant with 40 plus years of experience in public and private sectors.

Babauta said Sablan is a former public auditor for the CNMI government, and is currently vice president and chief financial officer of Triple J Enterprises Inc.

With respect to Rabauliman, he will represent Saipan and Northern Islands on the CEDA board of directors.

Rabauliman will serve the remaining of a four-year term that will expire on Sept. 25, 2023. He shall also serve a re-nomination to a subsequent four-year term that will expire on Sept. 25, 2027.

Babauta said Rabauliman is a former Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator.

Regarding David, she will serve the unexpired term of Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, which will expire on Sept. 25, 2025. She was appointed to represent Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Babauta said David has over 20 years of banking experience and is a volunteer for many organizations.

On Chong's appointment, she will represent Saipan and the Northern Islands on the CHCC board. She will serve a six-year term that became vacant and will expire on June 22, 2029.

Babauta said during the examination of Chong's credentials, they received no opposition for her nomination and in fact received many oral and written testimonials in support of her nomination.

Babauta said Chong is a CNMI daughter who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and her degree in social work from Loyola University of Chicago, Illinois.

She said Chong has extensive managerial experience in her chosen field of social work, including directly managing ambulatory care of social services at the University of Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
08/29/2023

Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Emergency Solution Grants

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 747	HESG	PY2021 HESG21 HMIS		$8,000.00	($7,335.00)	$665.00	$8,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			($7,335.00)		
IDIS# 740	HESG	PY2021 HESG21 Rapid Rehousing NMHC		$39,402.42	$7,335.00	$46,737.42	$39,402.42
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			$7,335.00		

Our agency, through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds from HMIS to a project activity, which constitutes as a substantial amendment. Therefore, any comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before September 29, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447.

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- Must be familiar with different types of asphalt, concrete, aggregate, cement and sand used/required for specific construction projects; and
- Travel within the geographical areas of the three (3) islands of the CNMI (Saipan, Tinian & Rota).

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FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHRISTOPHER STEPHEN GANGAN IBAROLA Petitioner,	]]]]	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0104
versus	]]]	**SUMMONS**
ELENITA CAMPOS TORRES Respondent.	]]]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.
YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.
If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.
By order of the above Court:

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Creating path forward for mental health of children, teens, and families

In a concerted effort to develop the mental health support system for the students and families of the CNMI Public School System, 13 government entities consisting of about 100 personnel got together last Sept. 12 at the Saipan World Resort.

The summit was held as part of a strategy to strengthen the system of support for youth mental health. The Mental Health department of the Office of Student and Support Services hosted a workshop titled "Community Compass: Navigating Youth and Family Mental Health Supports and Services in Unity" centered on improving referral pathways for youth mental health services amongst community agencies. The intention of the event was to open opportunities within agencies to hear about the various services and programs that are available to the islands' youth and families in the CNMI.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, the State Education Agency director for PSS Mental Health, began the event with a metaphor, stating, "Trees operate in deep harmony and connection rather than in isolation. Even though the intricacies of their collaboration are not fully understood by us, their collective strength underlines the significance of community and interdependence for true flourishing. What affects one affects all."

Cruz emphasized that the mental well-being of all children is a shared responsibility, and PSS is thankful to further develop and now collaborate with compassionate partners.

The transformative event was an all day event held on Sept. 12, with an agenda that was designed to encourage collaboration and understanding among stakeholders, community partners, providers, and professionals working in the field of mental health. Throughout the course of the day, participants were given opportunities to have meaningful dialogues on gaps in services and solutions this upcoming school year, which assisted in strengthening the foundation of continued partnerships.

Each of the 13 agencies presented the framework that their various organizations are continually working toward in order to improve how well they serve their respective demographics. The significance of involving parents and guardians in helping the growth and development of our youth was one of the primary highlights of, along with the importance of concentrating on positive protective factors, crisis preparedness tactics, and many more.

LEA Community manager for Saipan Walter Mendez, mentioned that this event was an important bridging tool for PSS Mental Health and related government agencies to launch discussions on how their different programs may better serve youth and families in the CNMI.

PSS

The PSS Mental Health Team with the community's mental health stakeholders, professionals and providers in dedication to navigate service pathways for our youth and families in the CNMI.

The objective of PSS Mental Health is to build resilience in the students and employees of the public school system by creating an environment that is secure and encouraging. Their all-encompassing mission and vision, which is founded on trauma-informed care, seeks to identify and provide universal strategies for all students, early support for identified students, and more individualized interventions for those in need all while creating critical relationships to give intense assistance such as coordinated referrals.

Evelyn Pangelinan, Community Health Outreach worker for CHCC's System of Care shares, "I feel that all our partners, as youth-serving agencies, share a similar mission and vision for the island community we collectively serve in that we all want to help and ultimately promote optimal wellness and wellbeing, in the context of mental health, and in all aspects. We are in a position to effectively navigate and direct our young people toward the support they may need when we combine our efforts with those of the various stakeholders in the community who are concerned with mental health."

Beyond the school setting, issues of mental health continue to play a significant role in the lives of our younger generation, added Pangelinan.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio said, "I want to know all the services that are available for our youth in the CNMI so that I can channel them accordingly when they come before me in court. If the mental health services in our community are able to provide our young people with the help they need to define the challenges they face and find a means to move past those challenges, then collectively we will be able to create new opportunities for our youth."

The Community Compass: Navigating Youth and Family Mental Health Supports and Services in Unity workshop, in its second annual facilitation, has set a promising course for the CNMI's youth and family mental health landscape, fostering unity, and empowering all involved to navigate the paths toward improved mental health support.

PSS extends its heartfelt gratitude to the following community partners for their invaluable participation and unwavering commitment to collectively share and illuminate the pathways for our youth and families to access vital mental health support within our community:

- 988 Suicide Prevention
- Youth Environment Solutions Program
- PSS Special Education Program
- Second Wind
- Family & Youth Enhancement Program
- Department of Youth Services
- CDC-Non-Communicable Disease
- Department of Public Health and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Community Guidance Center
- System of Care
- Healthy Transitions
- Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program
- Psychiatry
- Suicide Prevention Program
- Addiction Services Unit ***(PR)***

Over 70 take advantage of Back-to-School Free Haircut

ROTA—Rep. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota)'s office sponsored Back-to-School Free Haircut Project in collaboration with the Saipan Magahaga' Lady Eagles Club for children returning to school last Sept. 17.

The event was a major success with over 70 students participating in the event. Ogo's office provided for the airfare and accommodation of the volunteer hairstylist from Perfect Image (Michelle), Mommyla Salon (Sharmaine), and Barbie's Beauty Salon (Barbie, Rota) who provided the haircut services free of charge.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

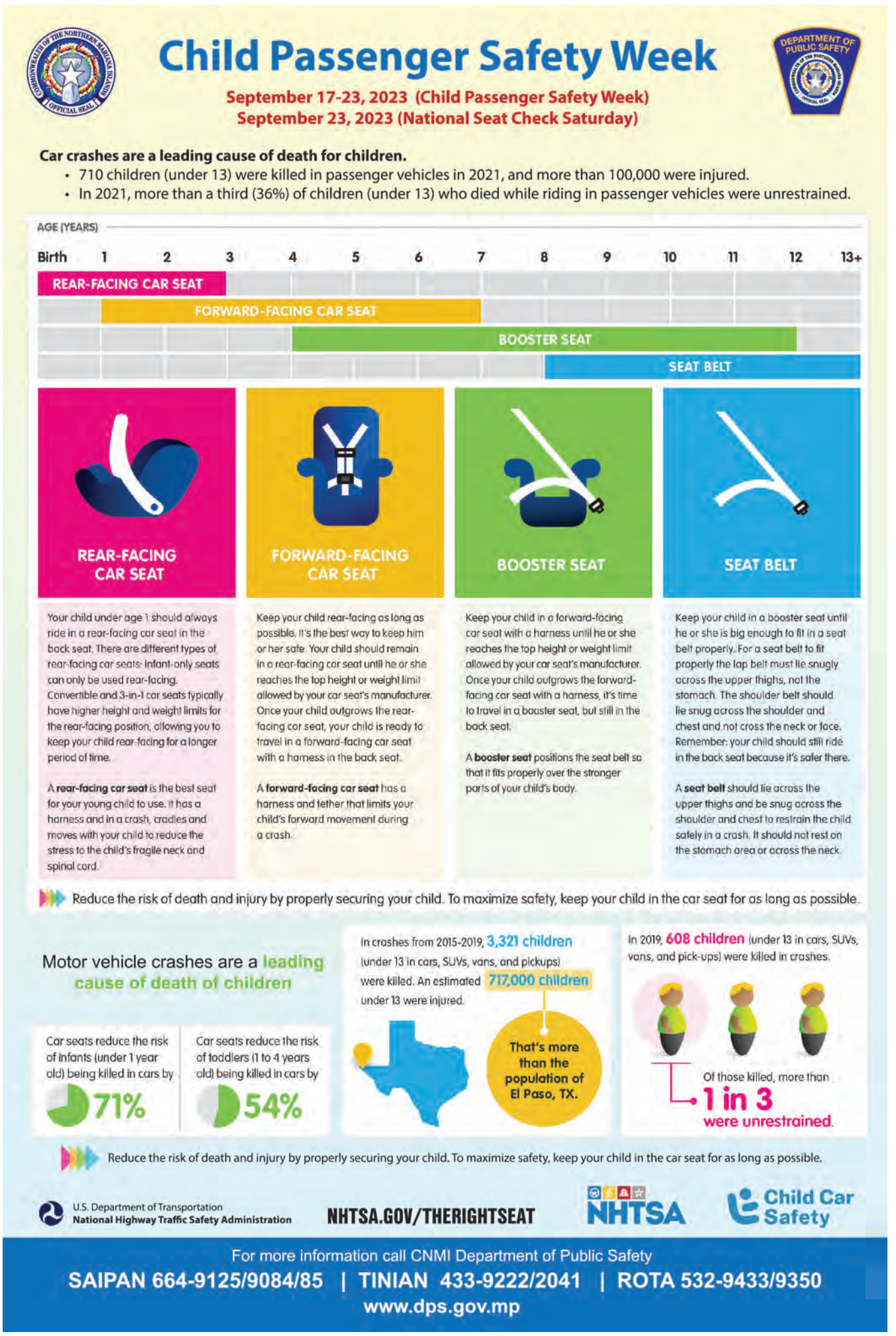
Volunteer hairstylists pose with some of their satisfied "customers' during the Back-to-School Free Haircut Project held last Sept. 17 on Rota.

Also greatly deserving of appreciation are the Rota Mayor's Office led by Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, 19th Rota Municipal Council members and staff, and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs Office, Division of Youth Services (DYS) for logistics assistance and for providing the venue for the event. In addition, a special thank you goes out to the parents and guardians who participated by bringing their children and wards to the event.

The people of Rota, welcomed the event with open arms, especially at a time when commodity prices continue to rise such as a 50-lb sack of rice costing almost $80 in Rota. The haircut may have been a small service, but on Rota, economic hardship is more acutely and often felt when disaster and economic challenges hit the Commonwealth.

"I am especially touched by our people's appreciative reaction, as I realized that this may have been an insignificant event to many outside of Rota who don't feel the financial pressure that our people are facing daily with the rise in the cost of living," said Ogo.

"With the imminent implementation of the increase on landing fee proposed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority, we will see escalated challenges ahead, and therefore, I am currently seeking information from the CPA to find out the intended increases and exploring ways to subsidize and simultaneously seek assistance from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan to have Rota and the Commonwealth as areas for Essential Air Services," she added. ***(PR)***


Child Passenger Safety Week
September 17-23, 2023 (Child Passenger Safety Week)
September 23, 2023 (National Seat Check Saturday)
Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children.
• 710 children (under 13) were killed in passenger vehicles in 2021, and more than 100,000 were injured.
• In 2021, more than a third (36%) of children (under 13) who died while riding in passenger vehicles were unrestrained.
AGE (YEARS)
Birth 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13+
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
BOOSTER SEAT
SEAT BELT
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.
A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness in the back seat.
A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.
BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
A booster seat positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.
SEAT BELT
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.
A seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.
Reduce the risk of death and injury by properly securing your child. To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible.
Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death of children
Car seats reduce the risk of infants (under 1 year old) being killed in cars by 71%
Car seats reduce the risk of toddlers (1 to 4 years old) being killed in cars by 54%
In crashes from 2015-2019, 3,321 children (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pickups) were killed. An estimated 717,000 children under 13 were injured.
That's more than the population of El Paso, TX.
In 2019, 608 children (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pick-ups) were killed in crashes.
Of those killed, more than 1 in 3 were unrestrained.
Reduce the risk of death and injury by properly securing your child. To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible.
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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

ROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-013-23

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 06, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 01, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS **(IFB-013-23)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 06, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP23-GOV-42300099

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST OCTOBER 6, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Department of Corrections Surveillance System Replacement** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be made available digitally at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan and online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids) beginning **Friday, September 8, 2023**. **A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. ChST, at the Department of Corrections.**

Questions regarding this RFP may be sumitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST, Wednesday, September 27, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, Friday, October 6, 2023.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) Qualifications and experience on similar projects – 30%; (2) Past performance with CNMI projects – 30%; and (3) Cost – 40%.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHEFA application deadline on Sept. 30

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance announced that the deadline to apply and submit supporting documents is on Sept. 30, 2023.

New applicants must create an account before proceeding with the application online at www.saipanshefa.com

They should also make sure to have all supporting documents ready to be uploaded.

For more information, call 670-233-5995 or email us at saipanshefa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

JKPL calls on all trick-or-treaters

It's that time of the year and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Northern Marianas Library Association, and all community partners invite everyone to join them for the 10th Annual Community Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat event.

Held every year, this popular free public event helps to promote and strengthen community partnership and engagement, fosters family bonding, and provides families with an alternative activity to trick-or-treating door-to-door. This spooktacular event is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2023 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot in Susupe.

Since 2012, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed hours of fun dressing up in spooktacular costumes and trick-or-treating at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot. This year, the JKPL will have monetary prizes for the Best Family Halloween Costume Contest. Registration is required to participate in the costume contest. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/PHEPP-MRC-020

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13, 2023 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **INVITATION TO BID** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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According to the published study of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in 2022 regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands: **Saipan Tribune was among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed.**

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 189

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

America's safety net isn't working

The U.S. has a long-acknowledged problem of poverty and inherited economic disadvantage—though not for lack of policy interventions. Its social safety net is expansive, encompassing multiple schemes including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or "food stamps"), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and numerous other subsidies to help pay for childcare, housing, energy and more. All told, such programs receive more than $1 trillion in federal spending annually.

Yet they're much less effective than they should be. That's partly because many individual policies are poorly designed or not fully funded by Congress. But the system's overall complexity is also to blame. It makes benefits costly to administer and harder to navigate for many of those who're eligible for help. According to a new study, less than half of the promised support from seven big antipoverty programs makes its way to the people intended to get it. Steps to remedy this failure should be a priority.

Researchers at the Urban Institute measured payments through Supplemental Security Income; SNAP; TANF; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Child Care and Development Fund subsidies; the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; and public and subsidized housing. They found a remarkable shortfall: If each of these programs were fully funded and 100% of eligible beneficiaries participated, payments would double, from $220 billion a year to $447 billion. That would be enough to cut the poverty rate from 14.7% to 10.1%, and child poverty from 15.2% to 8.5%.

Ideally, the whole system would be taken back to the drawing-board and made simpler and internally consistent, with particular attention to the inadvertent interactions of various federal and state-run programs. For now, there's little hope of any such overhaul. But progress is still possible, if Washington works with state and city governments to make improvements based on best practices.

As a start, technology should be used to simplify applying for benefits and getting them renewed. Many low-income households have smartphones but no personal computer, so mobile-friendly applications (with the ability to upload documents as photos) would help. Agencies could use text messages to tell existing beneficiaries when they need to act to maintain their coverage – an obvious step that's far from universal.Joint applications, which let beneficiaries enroll in various programs through one streamlined process, would also boost participation. (Illinois, for example, helps applicants sign up for SNAP, Medicaid and various other supports through a single portal.) Short of that, referrals to other programs should be more widely automated, since eligibility for one form of support often indicates eligibility for others.

Admittedly, such steps are workarounds for a system that's far too fragmented and, as a result, less effective than it should be. It will take sustained effort and comprehensive reform to get participation close to 100% and make further strides in fighting poverty. But better management, a more user-centric approach and smarter use of technology would be a good start.

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Breaking news! The BIDEN Administration is considering banning home air-conditioners in order to help their new Green Energy bill !!
HISTORIC HEAT WAVE GRIPPING LARGE PORTION OF U.S. !!
IS THIS ON THE BIDEN HORIZON?

Biden said the right things at the UN. That won't be enough

By ANDRES KLUTH
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. A former editor in chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist, he is author of "Hannibal and Me."

Figuratively and literally, the U.S. was once again talking to the world in its customary roles as host, leader and force for good—or at least champion against misery and evil. President Joe Biden struck all the right notes in New York as he addressed the 193 nations gathered in the General Assembly of the United Nations. And yet, his appeals will be far from enough to hold the world together.

In some ways this session, the U.N.'s 78th, could and should have highlighted America's role as the only plausible ward—or "hegemon"—over whatever remains of the liberal international order built after World War II. The leaders of the other four permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—Russia, China, France and the UK—didn't show up. Biden had the P-5 stage to himself.

The world must resist the brutal onslaught of one U.N. member, Russia, against another, Ukraine, Biden repeated, as he said at the same podium a year ago. After all, the Kremlin's war of aggression violates national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and thus the foundational principles of the U.N. Charter adopted in San Francisco in 1945. As a sign of his resolve to keep backing Kyiv, Biden will also host Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in the White House this week.

Biden paid homage to the daunting problems shared by all humanity, which the U.N. as the planet's main forum for international cooperation is meant to solve. Those are the 17 SDGs, or "sustainable development goals"—what a pity that existential threats have to get such bureaucratic labels. These targets range from slowing climate change to alleviating hunger, ending poverty, eliminating tuberculosis, educating girls and more.

In a nod to the many delegates from the "Global South" who are frustrated that countries in Africa, Asia and South America play such peripheral roles in the U.N. system, Biden even renewed his offer to reform its institutions. The Security Council, he suggested, should expand to look more like geopolitics in the 21st century rather than the middle of the 20th. On he went, each assertion sounding eminently plausible and reasonable.

And yet his words, several of which he slurred or elided as is his oratorical wont, won't join those of Pericles, Lincoln, Churchill or other leaders at comparable historical junctures. Too noisy is the din of the world's feuding and fighting for them to even be heard outside the chamber, too loud the hissing of the cynics.

The divisions start with Moscow's genocidal invasion of Ukraine. It's precisely the sort of war of aggression that the U.N., conceived during the joint struggle against the Nazis, was meant to prevent and punish. More than that, since the Kremlin is blocking grain exports from Ukraine, its invasion is also one reason why world hunger is increasing again, wrecking that particular SDG. And yet, much of the world still refuses to line up behind Biden and the West against Moscow.

Humanity's tragedy of the commons continues with those other SDGs. Adopted in 2015 and intended to be solved by 2030, those goals are instead receding into the distance. (Bloomberg LP has incorporated the SDGs in its sustainability strategy, which is outlined in the Bloomberg Impact Report.) More rather than fewer people live in dire poverty today than before the Covid pandemic. At the current rate of progress, men and women will be treated equally in 300 years. And global warming is accelerating rather than slowing, with this year's weather disasters just a hint of what's to come.

Moreover, American leadership as advertised by Biden looks ever less credible to much of the world. Few in the General Assembly could have failed to notice that Biden is facing possible impeachment, the prosecution of his son Hunter and vitriolic rants in the U.S. media about his age. Nor has it escaped their attention that the U.S. increasingly can't get its fiscal house in order. Much of this is symptomatic of America's extreme polarization, which will only increase as Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, starts showing up in various courts to defend himself against the 91 criminal charges against him, mostly for trying to steal the 2020 election. And then, next year, those two men will probably face off again in the presidential election.

So it doesn't help that America, the putative champion of free and open societies, is struggling to preserve its own democracy and civility. Nor is it reassuring that Trump or a Trumpist candidate might just return to the White House in 2025. In his own speeches to the General Assembly, Trump never failed to deride the "globalism" he feels the institution represents, and to praise nationalism.

These rifts within America are one reason multilateralism is on the defensive and "minilateralism" is on the rise, in the form of smaller blocs that compete with one another. But this weakness of multilateralism is hardly new, and it can yet be overcome. Already in 1945 John Foster Dulles, one of the drafters of the U.N.

See BIDEN on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We need immigrants more than ever. They keep hope in this country alive

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO
Los Angeles Times

When I think about the American dream, I think of Julio Arana.

He was my student at Cal State Fullerton a decade ago, a crackerjack of a kid from Jalisco who didn't know what he wanted to do with life but knew the United States was the place to do it in. Today, the 36-year-old is a real estate agent who owns seven properties, from Orange County to the Coachella Valley, and flips houses like a cook handles pancakes. But Arana prides himself most on helping young couples, Latinos and not, buy their first homes.

"I couldn't have done this in Mexico," he told me as we stood in front of his latest purchase, a beat-up 1925 Spanish Revival in Santa Ana just down the street from another house he owns. Long-haired, tanned and tattooed, Arana wore a stylish brown hat and a T-shirt with Emiliano Zapata drawn as the grinning skull logo of punk icons the Misfits. "The one thing this country still offers is that the little guy can get it."

We were at his newest acquisition because he wanted me to see something: On the side of the house, on a wall behind a trellis near the driveway, was a bas-relief stucco swastika the size of an adult head. A previous owner was a World War II veteran, but Arana had no idea why the white-power emblem was there. A historical curio? Emblematic of the previous owner's beliefs?

It didn't matter: It was personal to Arana.

"The first property I bought, in Desert Hot Springs, I had to evict Nazis," he said. "This is full circle."

Just a few moments earlier, we had spoken to his neighbor, Marco Chavez. Arana told him his story—he came to this country without papers as an 8-year-old—and the 61-year-old Chavez shared a bit of his: An immigrant from Morelos who bought his home in the early 2000s. His five children are college graduates. He just finished a living trust.

"My chamacos have come out good," Chavez told us in Spanish, holding a coffee cup in one hand and a cigarette in another as he looked at his three vintage VW buses parked on the street. "We've all done good."

Julio and I were getting ready to drive 10 minutes away, to a Santa Ana duplex where he was finishing up an ADU. "For us [immigrants] ... there's all this opportunity around us. People leave their homelands out of despair, and their hope is gone. Here, there's hope. I see it all around me."

When my editor first told me that a nationwide L.A. Times/KFF poll found that immigrants are more optimistic about life in the United States than native-born Americans, my initial response was: story of my life.

I was raised in a run-down granny flat in Anaheim a stone's throw from a lumberyard, the only place my immigrant parents could afford when they married in 1978. By the time I was 10 in 1989, my mother—a tomato canne and my truck-driving dad had saved up enough to buy a post-World War II tract home in a better part of town.

Within five years, our street went from majority white to almost exclusively Latino. Our former neighbors moved to Washington, Arizona and other states because, they told my parents, the neighborhood wasn't "safe" anymore, and California was changing.

Thirty-five years later, my dad and youngest brother are still there, the mortgage paid off years ago. I own my own home. So does the sister that follows me.

My parents never explicitly told us about the American dream. Each grew up in wrenching poverty in Zacatecas, one of the poorest states in Mexico. They couldn't give us much besides a roof over our heads and back-to-school clothes from Montgomery Ward, but their lives were an unspoken lesson: Life in this country is tough, but life back in the rancho was far harder. You've got a shot here—so make something of it, because we did.

The L.A. Times/KFF survey also revealed that Latino immigrants aren't just optimistic, on some measures, they're more optimistic than other immigrant groups. It's a tendency that USC sociology professor Jody Agius Vallejo said "studies have found time and time again"—and that more than a few pundits find weird.

She has devoted her research to studying upper- and middle-class Latinos, whose stories of hope and achievement like that of my family and Julio are legion. That includes the family of her husband, immigrants from Jalostotitlán, Jalisco, who settled in Watts in the 1960s and established a pioneering Latino grocery chain.

"I do get frustrated when people are surprised that Latinos are optimistic," Agius Vallejo said. "Why wouldn't they [be]? We can't discount the fact that Latinos have been subject to significant discrimination and segregation and still make something of themselves. It's a point of pride for them."

That's why I roll my eyes when I hear Americans whine about how their country is ruined—and few are more histrionic than former President Donald Trump. Just this July, he told a rapt crowd that "the American dream is being torn to shreds" and the country is "going to hell, and it's going to hell very fast."

Whiners: If you don't like the U.S., leave. Leave it to immigrants.

When I think of the American dream, I think of my uncle, Ezequiel Miranda.

He, my late mother and three aunts came to the United States as children with my grandparents in the early 1960s. They picked crops near Hollister, Calif., before making their way down to Anaheim, where my grandfather, José Miranda, had picked and packed oranges in the 1920s in what was then a segregated city. My uncle dropped out of school in seventh grade, fearing what might happen after he beat up the white bully who had made his life hell for too long.

I still remember the granny flat in Anaheim that mi tío, his wife, Marbella, and five of his six children lived in when I was growing up in the 1980s. It was next to a muddy alley, in a barrio worse than ours. But my uncle, a member of Cement Masons Local 500 for more than 30 years who worked on projects including Disney California Adventure and what's now called the Crypto.com Arena, lived the maxim he always told his children and us cousins: A trabajar. Get working.

He bought a small house in Anaheim, traded that one for a bigger one down the street and then settled into a two-story home with a swimming pool in Placentia, where he and Marbella still live. They're finally empty-nesters: Last week, my cousin Placido, his wife and their two teenage daughters moved into a four-bedroom home in Anaheim after selling their condo during the pandemic and staying with his parents.

At 46, he's the last of his siblings to own a home. His house is on the type of street where neighbors mistook mi tío for the gardener.

"When we bought it, it looked like the set of Jack Tripper's apartment," Plas said, referring to a character in the 1970s and '80s sitcom "Three's Company," as he took me on a tour of his kitchen (I call my cousin Plas, and he calls me Gus. Assimilation!). He's a delivery driver for Frito-Lay who didn't go beyond community college but is probably the smartest person I know. He sells movie memorabilia and sneakers on EBay as a side hustle, once offering a slew of $1 white T-shirts online for $25 apiece.

New floorboards, cabinets, fixtures, lights and walls gleamed. The granite countertops were on their way.

"My dad came in, and he began to tear things out immediately," Plas said. "My two handles for this drawer," he continued, sheepishly shaking his head, "took an hour and a half to install."

We moved on to his backyard, where mi tío had trimmed hedges that the previous owner let overgrow. He's now 70 but looks decades younger. I asked mi tío how he felt about how life turned out in the U.S.

"I go to one street, there's one of my kids. Go to another, another," he said in Spanish. He's usually gregarious but now was soft-spoken. "I worked for 50 years. This is my dream."

"The reason people don't feel [the American dream] is attainable is because everything is just more expensive," Plas said. "They almost resign themselves to saying, 'I can't buy a house.'

"But when you grow up with dirt floors and laminate roofs, that motivates you to reach for more. When we went to McDonald's growing up, it was a special occasion. When my parents would buy ice cream, we'd all get just one spoonful and knew to appreciate it."

"Now," Plas concluded with his usual sly smile, "my daughters leave cereal in their bowl."

The L.A. Times/KFF survey might not be news to you. It might even seem boring. But its findings are vital. It's the template for how this country can move forward from the chaos and division that have afflicted us since the rise of Trump.

To adapt a phrase from Thomas Jefferson, the tree of liberty must be refreshed with immigrant hope.

The doom and gloom that too many Americans screech about on social media and in their personal lives—on both sides of the red-blue divide—is a betrayal of what brought their ancestors here, and what continues to attract people from across the world. Pessimism, not political differences, is what's bringing down this country; the optimism of newcomers is our best shot to survive.

When I think about the American dream, I think about the bus that arrived Sept. 9 at Union Station from Brownsville, Texas. It's the 13th such one-way trip since June arranged by the administration of Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

He signed off on them shortly after L.A. declared itself a sanctuary city, meaning city personnel and resources can't be used to help federal officials deport immigrants.

Abbott says he's sending us migrants to protest the supposed lax security at the U.S.-Mexico border, but he's really mocking the American dream. His moves are descended from Proposition 187, the 1994 California ballot initiative that sought to make life miserable for immigrants without legal status but was eventually ruled unconstitutional.

I grew up in that era, and its rank xenophobia propelled me to not just devote my life to fight back, but also to look for the good in this country instead of the bad. Because if my parents could do it, why not me?

Proposition 187 had the same effect on Angelica Salas, the longtime head of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles and the daughter of Mexican immigrants. Her group is part of a coalition of nonprofits and faith groups called L.A. Welcomes Collective, which has helped to connect the migrants Abbott has kicked out of Texas with housing and relatives in the United States.

"They are the most patriotic individuals in our country because they're always hoping that America's ideals and purported values will happen in their lives," Salas said of the immigrants she works with. "If it doesn't, then they hope it happens in the lives of their children. And if it doesn't for them? Then their grandchildren. Their tenacity to not give up is contagious. "

That's the spirit Americans need anew. Immigrants now, immigrants tomorrow, immigrants forever.

BIDEN

From page 10

Charter in San Francisco (and a decade later U.S. Secretary of State), wrote that the U.N.'s "lack of political power is a semi-permanent fact," because the participating nations designed it that way. And yet, Dulles argued, it behooved the world to keep striving for cooperation, and America to use its own power to help that effort along.

Biden is of that same mind. But he's also a long-in-the-tooth leader of a long-in-the-tooth hegemon keeping watch over a long-in-the-tooth postwar order. Addressing the Assembly, he repeated one phrase for effect: "We know our future is bound to yours." In context, that wasn't as uplifting as intended.

This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

CBMA TAKES THE CIVIL-MILITARY PARTNERSHIP TOP HONORS FROM THE US DOD FOR FACILITATING US MILITARY READINESS

By TERI M. FLORES
Correspondent

Governor Arnold Palacios, Lt. Governor David Apatang, COL George Koklanaris, and BG Marrast-Host pose for a photo on DV Day during the IRT Mission.

Lt. Governor Apatang at the Final-Planning out brief held at the Hyatt ballroom in May 2023

Governor Palacios and Lt. Governor Apatang, the IRT team and leads Maj LaVorgna and Maj Madsen, and CBMA discuss IRT 23

CBMA staff and IRT team visiting Da'ok Elementary School as a possible medical site

Warren Villagomez and the IRT team at the CHCC MCATTS

IRT team, with Acting Mayor Joseph Santos, Allen Perez, Mayor of Tinian Chief of Staff, Ike Kiyoshi, Military Liaison for Tinian Mayor's Office, Rodney Cabarles, Tinian Healthcare Center Resident Director, Eric Reyes, Executive Director for the Tinian Municipal Council, and CBMA staff Coryn Achas IRT Lead, and Michelle Takai Field Liaison Coordinator pose for a photo after their Final-Planning meeting in Tinian

IRT Team with Aubry Hocog Rota Mayor, Jim Atalig Rota Councilman, Ike Mendiola Special Assistant for Military & Veterans Affairs Rota, Dean Manglona Rota Mayor chief of Staff during their Final-Planning meeting in Rota

IRT team with Director Pete Leon Guerrero from Homeland Security at the HSEM warehouse to discuss logistics.

Maj Madsen and Special Assistant for Military Affairs Danny Aquino

IRT Team with Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, Rota Councilman Jim Atalig, Rota Mayor Chief of Staff Dean Manglona, Special Assistant for Homeland Security, Military and Veterans Affairs Ike Mendiola, CNMI LNO LT Joe Plunkett, CBMA IRT Lead Coryn Achas pose for a photo after their meeting.

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs recently received the top honors from the U.S. Department of Defense for assisting the U.S. military to operate in remote areas within the Pacific region through strategically planned civil affairs programs throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Through the DOD's Innovative Readiness Training or IRT, the CBMA was honored last Aug. 31 in a ceremony held during the 2023 Joint Workshop for Operational Mission Planners at Logistics Management Institute in Virginia.

The CBMA received the IRT's Civil-Military Partnership of the Year award for its work with the Operation Health CNMI mission and beat out 30 other states and territories to take top honors. With Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' special assistant for Military Affairs Daniel Aquino at the helm, the CBMA was honored for its first exemplary leadership by identifying opportunities to increase U.S. military readiness and by encouraging collaboration and innovation with the Northern Marianas.

In this partnership between the Northern Marianas and the U.S. military, the CNMI has gained more of an advantage not just in ensuring the health and wellness of residents but on a larger scale, the ailing local economy gets a big boost from military spending.

"This recognition is the highest award that can be received in this category. Overall, this is a big win for the people of the CNMI because other military units are interested in performing IRT missions here. With the CNMI hosting wide-scale military training, this will bring a positive economic benefit for local businesses," said Aquino.

Innovative Readiness Missions is a partnership between the Northern Marianas and the DOD-IRT program. IRT is classified as a DOD training opportunity, exclusive to the United States and its territories, that delivers joint training opportunities to increase the US military's deployment readiness. The IRT aids health care, construction, transportation, and cybersecurity.

Brigadier General Mark Siekman, 9th Mission Support Command, Fort Shafter Hawaii, visited Gov. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and discussed the CNMI's role as an innovative readiness location. Once this was determined, the wheels began to turn for the CNMI's first Innovative Readiness Mission which was on veterinary care. This was later expanded upon the CNMI's submission of an application for the 2023 CNMI Medical and Wellness Mission.

Aquino explains that for the mission to happen, an application must be submitted to the IRT Mission team for consideration and approval. It is the CBMA's role to act as the local liaison that provides logistical support and coordinates and plans the mission alongside the IRT team. The CBMA also works with other local government agencies and departments for use of their resources and assets during IRT missions. In particular, the CBMA takes care of the visiting mission's lodging, training venues and transportation. The IRT, on the other hand, provides expertise and medical supplies and resources.

For the 2023 CNMI Medical and Wellness mission, the campaign focused on providing residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota medical and veterinary services. This includes optometry, dental, dietician, behavioral health, and general health public education. As previously reported, the IRT estimated 12,600 training hours and a community benefit worth over $2.5 million at fair market value in just over one week of the mission. A total of 170 military personnel visited all three islands between July 11 and 24, 2023. For the 2024 IRT mission, the CNMI is expecting 275 military personnel for the 1-month mission.

Hosting a big contingent of military personnel came with its challenges and Aquino cited funding on items not covered by the grant as one of two major hurdles. Since the missions on all three islands were happening simultaneously, there were some setbacks in getting all equipment and supplies to Tinian and, most especially, Rota.

Aquino is very grateful for the help of several departments and agencies who all pulled through to make the 2023 IRT mission happen. Funding woes were addressed through the approval of a supplemental request for funding by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. The Department of Public Safety and Division of Customs and Biosecurity provided boats that were used to transport equipment and supplies to Tinian and Rota while the Department of Public Lands agreed to the temporary use of the former Mariana Resort & Spa as a lodging facility for the IRT mission.

As for the medical site, the CBMA coordinated with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Homeland Security to use the CHCC area as a training facility. Homeland Security special assistant Franklin Babauta also provided cleaning supplies and other necessary items used to keep sanitation at the lodging and designated medical areas.

The medical and veterinary services provided through the IRT were conducted at the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control compound and the Saipan Cares for Animals has left a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.

"We are experiencing tough economic times. Each family who took advantage of the free services helped in giving them extra money for other things like school supplies or a nice dinner outing with family. It was also a blessing in disguise for others who have benefitted from the presumptive Medicaid which has now ended," shared Aquino. For the overwhelming public support that the 2023 mission received, Aquino guarantees that the 2024 wellness mission will be a bigger event that will be held at a longer period.

For Aquino, the biggest credit should go to Gov. Palacios and Lt. Gov. Apatang for their staunch support of the IRT mission. "They approved and supported the IRT Mission. They also provided CBMA and its staff ample guidance while at the same time, vigorously encouraging the public to take advantage of the IRT services."

Aquino also extends his gratefulness to Col. K, Maj. Dan, Maj. Madsen and the OSD & IRT Team and Team leader Corynn Achas and assistant team leader Jamilice Camacho; the Rota IRT Mission team of Eusebio Manglona and Kenneth Kaneshi; Lorena Cabrera of the Tinian IRT Mission team and the Saipan IRT Mission team of Tom Linden, Daisy Babauta, Michelle Takai, and Jocelyn Palacios. Not to be forgotten is the military team that made up the 2023 Health and Wellness mission.

With the success of the 2023 IRT mission, it will now be a yearly task of the CBMA to apply for the Operation Wellness Mission yearly and collaborate with IRT contacts with the goal of executing yearly medical missions at no cost. Another positive result of the successful 2023 IRT mission is gaining the interest of the U.S. Marines which has expressed its interest in performing their own IRT-lead mission on Saipan.

Aquino would like to thank his wife, family, friends, and most of all, the people who availed of the no-cost services. It's for this reason Aquino dedicated the award to the people of the CNMI. This mission was for and about them, and without them, there would be no award so it's really fitting that this award is dedicated to them.

DANNY AQUINO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS

Special assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs Danny Aquino and CBMA Program manager Eusebio Manglona received the award on August 2023

IRT team visiting Rota Health Center in Rota as a potential medical site

Mr. Judd Lyons, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Integration, was in attendance and presented the award alongside Maj Dan LaVorgna and Col. Chatwick to Special Assistant Danny Aquino.

IRT team touring the MCATT as a possible medical site

IRT team and CBMA visiting Marianas Resort as a potential bed-down for military personnel

IRT Team with CHCC Warren Villagomez and CBMA Staff Daisy Babauta and Coryn Achas are visiting the MCATS at CHCC as a potential medical site for the IRT mission.

CBMA staff and IRT team visiting the Youth Affairs Office in Koblerville as a potential medical site

IRT Dentist performing dental services.

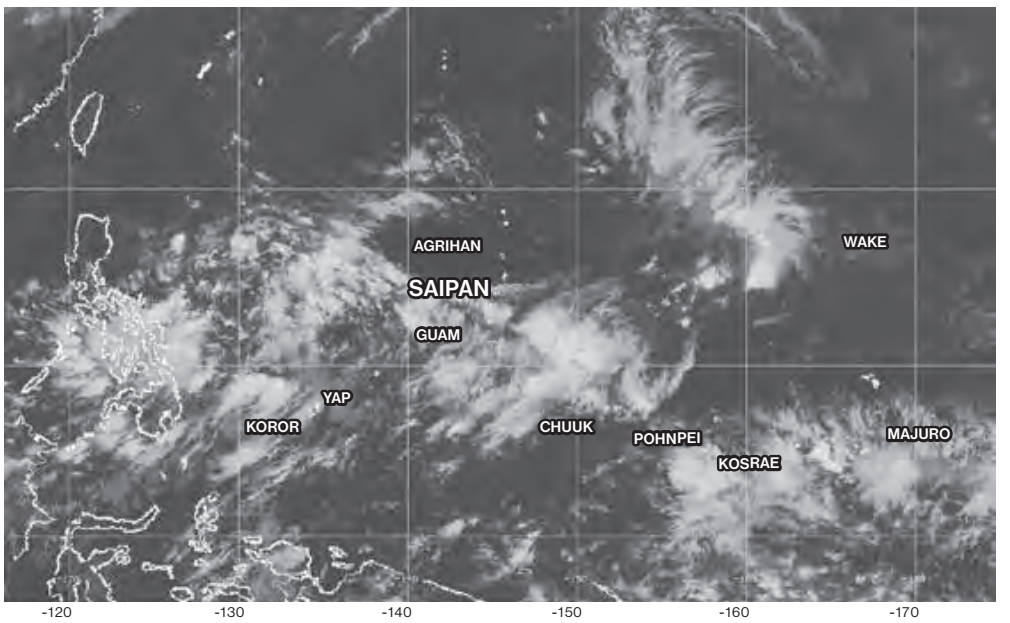
Veterinarian assessing a dog.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. North winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers.
88° 79°	88° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:07 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters at this time, however earlier this morning we had a flood advisory out for southern Guam. The showers will likely be back later today or tonight. The Ipan buoy reveals a 5 to 6 foot swell from just north of east. There could be a 1 or 2 foot swell from the south or southwest, but that will do little to the combined seas, so they will be 5 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	77° / 54°
Hong Kong	Showers	86° / 77°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	63° / 46°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 63°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	66° / 50°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	90° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	74° / 70°
Osaka	Showers	75° / 66°
Paris	Sunny	70° / 45°
Busan	Windy	72° / 64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	88° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°
Tokyo	Showers	72° / 63°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:00 PM	11:20 PM	-
Saturday	1:01 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:21 AM	2:01 PM
Monday	-	1:25 AM	2:58 PM
Tuesday	-	2:30 AM	3:51 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:21 AM	Low Tide	0.06
1:57 PM	High Tide	1.64
6:48 PM	Low Tide	1.38
11:25 PM	High Tide	1.67

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Series of Articles Written by the 2023 DCRM Summer Interns

Issue No. 4 of 8

www.dcrm.gov.mp

Bringing More Life to Our Coastlines

JESSE ATALIG

Before the summer started, I was looking forward to becoming a potential intern for the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) Summer Internship Program. As time went on, I got accepted and discovered that this internship was not what I expected it to be.

I was placed in DCRM's Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) Watershed Management branch with the guidance of my mentor, Zachary Williams, Watershed Coordinator. The main project for this internship was to build a mangrove nursery and bring three extirpated (locally extinct) mangrove species back to Saipan, while making a safe habitat for mangroves to grow. The mangroves returning to Saipan are *Rhizophora Apiculata* (tall-stilt mangrove), *Rhizophora mucronata* (loop-root mangrove), and *Lumnitzera Littorea* (black mangrove). This was exciting because these species of mangrove have been extirpated from Saipan for 1,500 years. There was a lot of hard work put into this project and I learned so much along the way about mangroves and their importance in the CNMI.

Mangroves are unique species of trees adapted to saltwater, and are found in coastal environments throughout the tropical world—including Saipan.

Commonly seen mangroves on Saipan are the *Bruguiera Gymnorrhiza* (oriental mangrove) and *Pemphis Acidula* (small-leaf mangrove). They hold great importance in our ecosystem by providing habitats for a multitude of species and protecting our coastlines from erosion. Research has shown that mangroves can provide shoreline protection through their complex roots and branches, reducing 66% of wave energy across 100-meters of forest width (McIvor *et al.* 2012). By doing so, our mangrove forests preserve our beach communities, like Tanapag Village.

With aid from the National Park Service and Kupu Program interns at American Memorial Park, we were able to set up a nursery located along the coastline within the park. The nursery was built with t-posts, PVC pipe, shade cloth, and other materials with an area of 60 by 30 feet. It was set up with the idea of being easily dismantled in case of a typhoon. At least 500 propagules of each of the mangrove species will be planted in the nursery, with extirpated species being imported from Guam.

The internship opened my eyes to how mangroves aid by protecting us and the environment. We have come a long way in this project. From building the nursery to getting the propagules, this journey made me realize I'm contributing to something bigger than

myself. The nursery will help increase the population and diversity of mangroves on Saipan, bringing more life to our coastlines and mudflats.

McIvor, A.L., Möller, I., Spencer, T. and Spalding. M. (2012) Reduction of wind and swell waves by mangroves. Natural Coastal Protection Series: Report 1. Cambridge Coastal Research Unit Working Paper 40. Published by The Nature Conservancy and Wetlands International. 27 pages. ISSN 20507941.

Gaining Knowledge to Sustain Our Endangered Wildlife

ANIKA SNYDER

Many people, including myself, often forget how integral biodiversity is within the CNMI. The CNMI holds many endemic species that can be found nowhere else in the world and each of these species holds essential ecological and cultural value. While working as a Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) intern with the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), I had the opportunity to learn more about the unique and beautiful plants and animals found in the CNMI and work directly toward their conservation.

This summer, I worked on multiple projects aimed at the conservation and maintenance of our wildlife populations. I helped conduct public outreach and nest inventories to aid in conserving Green Sea Turtles (Haggan Bedi) and Hawksbill Sea Turtles (Haggan Karai). From there, I transitioned to surveying Saipan's bird populations. I aided in an ongoing project monitoring our population of endangered Nightingale Reed-Warblers (gå'ga' karisu) as well as aiding in monitoring the general bird populations on Saipan using visual and audio surveys. Finally, I worked with the fisheries data, where we surveyed and interviewed fishermen to gain more knowledge on the CNMI's fish stocks.

A large part of my project was centered around creating a banner informing the public of the endangered and threatened species within the CNMI. A lot of work within the Wildlife sector of DFW is invested in conserving the populations of our endangered endemic species. However, much of this work goes unnoticed by larger public because the knowledge of our threatened species is not readily available. Our banner was made to bring public awareness to the important species currently at risk of extinction to engage the public in everyday conservation. The CNMI relies on all endemic species to complete valuable ecosystem services that benefit both the overall environmental health of the islands and the people living within them. To sustain and grow our endangered species, everyone needs to invest and engage in their conservation, and knowing which species are threatened is the first step.

This internship has allowed me further to understand the importance of conservation, specifically within the CNMI. The knowledge, experience, and passion I have gained this summer will follow me throuhgout my life and help guide me toward a career in conservation.

Katili, A. S., & RAHMAT, A. (2020). Biodiversity literacy in science education for biodiversity conservation. International Journal of Innovations in Engineering Research and Technology, 7(05), 31-35.

Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ilonggo-Cebuano resto Kanto Diyes opens in Garapan

Dante Suarez Conlu and his wife, Lot, are veterans of the food service industry on Saipan and they recently opened their own restaurant.

Located along Flores Rosa Street in Garapan, Kanto Diyes is a marriage of Ilonggo and Cebu cuisine as Conlu and his wife hail from those regions of the Philippines, respectively.

"We come from the Visayas in the Philippines and we know for a fact that a lot of our *kababayans* (countrymen) miss authentic dishes from that region so we've come up with a restaurant that serves authentic Ilonggo and Cebuano food," he said.

Kantos Diyes is also an easy and comfortable eating place to relax and just enjoy a meal or two with your loved ones and friends. This becomes more evident as food is served in banana leaves and diners have the option to eat using their hands Filipino *kamayan* style.

"Me and my wife are food lovers and we love to go around the island to find a delicious food, excellent service, and a feel-at-home ambiance. Sometimes it's hard to find those three so we created Kanto Diyes," said Conlu.

Aside from their *lutong bahay* (homecooked) meals and homey atmosphere, Kanto Diyes also prides itself with the photo exhibit vibe the small shack exudes and Conlu said it's all by design.

He said aside from a passion for serving good food and attending to diners, he's also avid hiker and it literally shows with the framed photos of his recent nature escapades on Saipan prominently displayed on Kanto Diyes' walls.

Since it soft-opened last Friday, Sept. 15, Kanto Diyes has welcomed a steady stream of customers, a majority of who are transplants from Iloilo, Negros Occidental, and Cebu province.

Just some of the bestsellers of Kantos Diyes include Bacolod chicken inasal, sugba na lukos (grilled squid), KBL (kadyos, baboy, lanka), and every Ilonggo's hangover remedy, kansi.

Conlu said their Kansi, which is kind of a cross between bulalo and sinigang, is different from any other kansi dishes on island as they use the batwan fruit as the souring agent.

For his wife's favorite native Cebuano dishes, balbacua (beef stew made from beef, collagen-rich beef parts, and various spices), paklay (pork or beef innards cooked in pineapple juice with bamboo shoots), and puto and sikawate (traditional Cebuano breakfast) are likewise on the menu.

As for opening a new business when the economy has yet to fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the effect of the touchback issue on the horizon, the owner of Kanto Diyes said they're just happy to put contented smiles in their customers' faces.

"We are aware about shaky economic status of the island right now. It's very challenging but despite the circumstances we all deserve to enjoy good food and that's what Kanto Diyes is ready to offer," said Conlu.

Kanto Diyes is open for dine-in and takeout every day from 11am to 9:30pm. It can sit a maximum of 20 customers and is located along Flores Rosa Street corner Alaihai Avenue near the back of Dollar Days in Garapan.

For more information, to reserve, or to order in advance, call (670) 989-2728 or email dconlu30@gmail.com. Kanto Diyes is also on Facebook.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanto Diyes' authentic Bacolod chicken inasal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanto Diyes' paklay Cebuano dish.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

ADDENDUM NO. 1
ITB23-DCCA-42300104

"HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (HPO) BUILDING REHABILITATION RENOVATION PROJECT"

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

This **Addendum No. 1** is issued to re-schedule the bid submission and opening date for the above referenced Invitation to Bid.

- **Questions** regarding this project can be made to **Mr. Francisco Rabauliman** by email, frank.rabauliman@gov.mp and MUST be submitted **no later than the 04:30 p.m., local time, the close of business, September 25, 2023**. All questions submitted after the questionnaire deadline will be not be considered. All questions and answers shall be shared with all bidders.
- Sealed bid submittals for this project must be submitted with one **(1) original and three (3) copies** to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Services located at Bldg No. 12552, Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later **than 10:00 a.m., local time, September 22, 2023 is changed to no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, September 29, 2023 and must be marked ITB23-DCCA-42300104.**
- Bids submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth, **one (1) original** and **three (3) copies** of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **10:00 a.m., ChST, September 29, 2023.** The bid package must be mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 10008 C.K. Saipan MP, 96950 and must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than the close of business **October 10, 2023**.
- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Governor, 1st Floor Conference Room, located at Pagan Loop, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., ChST, October 11, 2023**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m., ChST, September 29, 2023.**

All other requirements stated in the Invitation to Bid shall remain as stated.

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT SERVICES

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP23-GOV-42300097

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST OCTOBER 6, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HVAC REPLACEMENT SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Department of Corrections HVAC Replacement** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be made available digitally at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan and online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids) beginning **Friday, September 8, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m, ChST, at the Department of Corrections.**

Questions regarding this RFP may be sumitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST, Wednesday, September 27, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 AM ChST, Friday, October 6, 2023.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) Qualifications and experience on similar projects – 30%; (2) Past performance with CNMI projects – 30%; and (3) Cost – 40%.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB23-OGM-42300107

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2023 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) LIGHT RESCUE UTILITY TRUCK FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY OCTOBER 06, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR, VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 08, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN (IFB-006-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 11, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nation

Biden uses executive power to create New Deal-style American Climate Corps

WASHINGTON (AP)—After being thwarted by Congress, President Joe Biden will use his executive authority to create a New Deal-style American Climate Corps that will serve as a major green jobs training program.

In an announcement Wednesday, the White House said the program will employ more than 20,000 young adults who will build trails, plant trees, help install solar panels and do other work to boost conservation and help prevent catastrophic wildfires.

The climate corps had been proposed in early versions of the sweeping climate law approved last year but was jettisoned amid strong opposition from Republicans and concerns about cost.

Democrats and environmental advocacy groups never gave up on the plan and pushed Biden in recent weeks to issue an executive order authorizing what the White House now calls the American Climate Corps.

"After years of demonstrating and fighting for a Climate Corps, we turned a generational rallying cry into a real jobs program that will put a new generation to work stopping the climate crisis," said Varshini Prakash, executive director of the Sunrise Movement, an environmental group that has led the push for a climate corps.

With the new corps "and the historic climate investments won by our broader movement, the path towards a Green New Deal is beginning to become visible," Prakash said, referring to a comprehensive jobs-and-climate plan supported by many activists and some Democrats but ridiculed by Republicans as a socialist nightmare that would raise taxes and hamper the economy.

Prakash, a frequent Biden critic, participated in a White House call on Tuesday promoting the new job corps, which comes as Biden tries to strengthen his appeal to young voters in the 2024 presidential campaign.

The Sunrise Movement and other climate activists, including many young adults, were outraged this spring after Biden approved the huge Willow oil-drilling project in Alaska. Opponents say the project and others approved by Biden put his climate legacy at risk and are a breach of his 2020 campaign promise to stop new oil drilling on federal lands.

Those concerns were put aside, for now, as environmental activists hailed the new jobs program, which is modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps, created in the 1930s by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a Democrat, as part of the New Deal.

"Young people nationwide are excited to see the launch of the American Climate Corps, enhancing career pathways in clean energy, conservation and climate resilience," said Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez, president of NextGen America, an organization that promotes education, registration and mobilization for voters age 18 to 35.

"Young people are fighting for climate justice every day in their community, and now they have even more opportunity to continue this fight in their careers," Ramirez said.

More than 50 Democratic lawmakers, including Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, had also encouraged Biden to create a climate corps, saying in a letter on Monday that "the climate crisis demands a whole-of-government response at an unprecedented scale."

Biden's Dems allies intensify pressure for asylum-seekers to get work permits

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—As more than 115,000 migrants arrived in New York City over the past year after crossing the border from Mexico, Mayor Eric Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul begged President Joe Biden for one thing, above all others, to ease the crisis: "Let them work," both Democrats have said repeatedly in speeches and interviews.

Increasingly impatient leaders of Biden's party in other cities and states hammered the same message over the last month, saying the administration must make it easier for migrants to get work authorization quickly, which would allow them to pay for food and housing.

The Biden administration took one step toward granting that demand Wednesday, extending a temporary legal status to an estimated 472,000 Venezuelans in the U.S. that will make it easier for them to get work permits.

But expediting work permits for other groups might not be easy, either legally or bureaucratically, experts in the process say. Politically, it may be impossible.

It would take an act of Congress to shorten a mandatory, six-month waiting period for work permits for asylum-seekers who cross the border illegally. Such legislation seems unlikely. Biden already faces attacks from Republicans who say he is too soft on immigration, and his administration has pointed to Congress' inability to reach agreement on comprehensive changes to the U.S. immigration system as justification for other steps it has taken.

The Homeland Security Department has sent more than 1 million text messages urging migrants to apply for work permits, and on Wednesday the administration said it would aim to lower the application wait time for those that are eligible to 30 days, down from around 90 currently.

Those steps pleased Hochul and Adams, who said late Wednesday that he hoped the administration would also extend Temporary Protected Status to migrants from countries besides Venezuela. That designation is most commonly given to places where there is an armed conflict or natural disaster.

Gilberto Pozo Ortiz, a 45-year-old from Cuba, has been living, at taxpayer expense, in a hotel in upstate New York for the last three months. He says his work authorization is not yet in sight as social workers navigate him through a complex asylum application system.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 22, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Construction & Materials Supply Incorporated (CMS)	01/19/2023 SMS-2020-X-025	5 Years Extension of CMS Quarry Operation	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved 02/14/2023
2. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	07/21/2023 SPI-2023-079	Staging & Stockpiling	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	STOP CLOCK* 07/28/023
3. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd.	08/04/2023 SMS-2023-085	Retaining Wall and Shoreline Revetment Project	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Tabled* 09/19/2023
4. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	8/29/2023 TPIm-2023-004	Tinian Commercial Port Sign	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 09/07/2023
5. The Palette, Inc.	9/5/2023 SMS-2023-096	Resume Construction of Capitol Hill Wonderland Project	Capital Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved* 09/18/2023
6. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	09/06/2023 SMS-2012-X-061	5 Years Extension of Kannat Tabla Quarry Operation	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved 09/18/2023
7. J & Y Corporation	09/08/2023 SLRm-2023-097	Mooring Buoy	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	RESUME CLOCK* 09/19/2023
8. HowYo Chi	09/08/2011 SSm-2023-024-A1	Construction of a Patio Canopy with Fence	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline	Certified Complete 09/11/2023 Approved 09/18/2023
9. CNS, Inc.	09/12/2023 SLR-2023-098	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	Managaha Lagoon, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 09/12/2023 Approved* 09/14/2023
10. Interpacific Resorts (Saipan) Corporation dba Pacific Islands Club (PIC)	09/12/2023 SSm-2023-099	Kids Playhouse Building Expansion	San Antonio, Saipan	Shoreline	Certified Complete* 09/12/2023 Approved* 09/15/2023
11. Mariana Global, Inc.	09/14/2023 SSLRm-2023-100	Managaha Signage for Filming & Photography Activities	Managaha, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 09/18/2023 Approved* 09/20/2023
12. Jianqing Zheng dba Mariana Star Diving Club	09/15/2023 SLR-2023-101	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operations	Laulau Bay & Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 09/19/2023 Approved* 09/20/2023
13. Canaan Realty, LLC	09/18/2023 SMS-2023-102	New Construction of a 42 Unit Housing	As Lito, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Under Review*
14. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	09/19/2023 SLR-2023-103	Emergency Rescue Jetski Operation	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Asia

India expels Canadian diplomat

NEW DELHI (AP)—India expelled one of Canada's top diplomats Tuesday, ramping up a confrontation between the two countries over Canadian accusations that India may have been involved in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in suburban Vancouver.

» Escalates tensions after Trudeau accuses India in Sikh's killing

India, which has dismissed the accusations as absurd, said the expulsion came amid "growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities," according to a statement from its Ministry of External Affairs.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appeared to try to calm the diplomatic clash Tuesday, telling reporters that Canada is "not looking to provoke or escalate."

"We are simply laying out the facts as we understand them and we want to work with the government of India to lay everything clear and to ensure there are proper processes," he said. "India and the government of India needs to take this matter with the utmost seriousness."

On Monday, Trudeau said there were "credible allegations" of Indian involvement in the slaying of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a 45-year-old Sikh leader who was killed by masked gunmen in June in Surrey, outside Vancouver. For years, India has said Nijjar, a Canadian citizen born in India, has links to terrorism, an allegation Nijjar denied.

A U.S. official said Trudeau was in contact with President Joe Biden's administration about Canada's findings before raising them publicly. The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Trudeau's willingness to speak out about the matter was taken by the White House as an indication of the Canadian leader's certainty about what had been found.

Canada has yet to provide any evidence of Indian involvement, but if true it would mark a major shift for India, whose security and intelligence branches have long been significant players in South Asia, and are suspected in a number of killings in Pakistan. But arranging the killing of a Canadian citizen in Canada, home to nearly 2 million people of Indian descent, would be unprecedented.

India, though, has accused Canada for years of giving free rein to Sikh separatists, including Nijjar.

The dueling expulsions have escalated tensions between Canada and India. Trudeau had frosty encounters with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during this month's Group of 20 meeting in New Delhi, and a few days later Canada canceled a trade mission to India planned for the fall.

Nijjar, a plumber, was also a leader in what remains of a once-strong movement to create an independent Sikh homeland, known as Khalistan. A bloody decadelong Sikh insurgency shook north India in the 1970s and 1980s, until it was crushed in a government crackdown in which thousands of people were killed, including prominent Sikh leaders.

Violence spilled across years and continents. In 1984, former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was killed by two of her Sikh bodyguards after she ordered an army operation to flush out heavily armed Sikh separatists barricaded inside Sikhism's holiest shrine. Her killing led to riots that left more than 2,000 Sikhs dead.

S. Korean leader warns Russia against weapons collaboration with North

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A neurosurgeon investigating a woman's mystery symptoms in an Australian hospital says she plucked a wriggling worm from the patient's brain.

Surgeon Hari Priya Bandi was performing a biopsy through a hole in the 64-year-old patient's skull at Canberra Hospital last year when she used forceps to pull out the parasite, which measured 8 centimeters, or 3 inches.

"I just thought: 'What is that? It doesn't make any sense. But it's alive and moving,'" Bandi was quoted Tuesday in The Canberra Times newspaper.

"It continued to move with vigor. We all felt a bit sick," Bandi added of her operating team.

The creature was the larva of an Australian native roundworm not previously known to be a human parasite, named Ophidascaris robertsi. The worms are commonly found in carpet pythons.

Bandi and Canberra infectious diseases physician Sanjaya Senanayake are authors of an article about the extraordinary medical case published in the latest edition of the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Senanayake said he was on duty at the hospital in June last year when the worm was found.

"I got a call saying: 'We've got a patient with an infection problem. We've just removed a live worm from this patient's brain,'" Senanayake said.

The woman had been admitted to the hospital after experiencing forgetfulness and worsening depression over three months. Scans showed changes in her brain.

A year earlier, she had been admitted to her local hospital in southeast New South Wales state with symptoms including abdominal pain, diarrhea, a dry cough and night sweats.

Senanayake said the brain biopsy was expected to reveal a cancer or an abscess.

"This patient had been treated ... for what was a mystery illness that we thought ultimately was a immunological condition because we hadn't been able to find a parasite before and then out of nowhere, this big lump appeared in the frontal part of her brain," Senanayake said.

"Suddenly, with her (Bandi's) forceps, she's picking up this thing that's wriggling. She and everyone in that operating theater were absolutely stunned," Senanayake added.

Bandi said her patient regained conscious after the worm was extracted without any negative consequences.

"She was so grateful to have an answer for what had been causing her trouble for so very long," Bandi said.

Six months after the worm was removed, the patient's neuropsychiatric symptoms had improved but persisted, the journal article said.

The patient had been sent home soon after the surgery with antiparasitic drugs and had not returned to hospital since, Senanayake said. "She's done OK, but obviously because this is a new infection, we're keeping a close eye on her," Senanayake told Ten Network television.

The worms' eggs are commonly shed in snake droppings which contaminate grass eaten by small mammals. The life cycle continues as other snakes eat the mammals.

The woman lives near a carpet python habitat and forages for native vegetation called warrigal greens to cook.

While she had no direct contact with snakes, scientists hypothesize that she consumed the eggs from the vegetation or her contaminated hands.

World

Ukraine's president lashes out at Russia

AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses a high level Security Council meeting during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023.

» But avoids face-to-face encounter

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Ukraine's president accused Russia of waging "a criminal and unprovoked aggression" that undermines all norms of war and the U.N. charter Wednesday at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council. Volodomyr Zelenskyy also urged world leaders to strip Russia of its veto power.

The Ukrainian leader told the council that his proposal to end the 19-month war starts with adherence to the charter that ensures the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all 193 U.N. member nations. He stressed that restoration of all Ukrainian territory is the key to peace.

Before the meeting started, there was intense speculation about whether Zelenskyy and Russia's top diplomat, Sergey Lavrov, would clash, speak or totally avoid each other. But no confrontation happened because Zelenskyy left the council soon after his address.

The meeting started with a clash over his speech. Before Lavrov arrived, Russian U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia protested the council president's decision to allow Zelenskyy to speak ahead of the 15 council members.

He said Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, this month's council president, was trying to turn the meeting into "a one-man stand-up show," adding that it would be "nothing more than a spectacle"—a dig at Zelenskyy's past as a comedian.

Rama cited the council rule allowing a nonmember to speak first. He added that "this is not a special operation by the Albanian presidency," eliciting laughter with a quip about Russia's insistence on referring to its offensive against Ukraine as a "special military operation."

After another heated exchange over whether Nebenzia had referred to Rama as Albania's prime minister and a NATO member instead of as the council president, Rama declared: "I take note, and we'll continue with our session."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres then briefed the council, reiterating that Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 was "in clear violation of the United Nations charter and international law."

The war "is aggravating geopolitical tensions and divisions, threatening regional stability, increasing the nuclear threat and creating deep fissures in our increasingly multipolar world," the U.N. chief warned.

France rolls out red carpet for King Charles III's state visit

PARIS (AP)—Britain's King Charles III praised France's "wonderful welcome" at a grand dinner held in his honor Wednesday night at the sumptuous Hall of Mirrors of the Palace of Versailles, marking his state visit meant to underline the friendship between both nations.

In a toast mostly pronounced in French, the king said that "once again, France and the French people have shown a warm welcome and profound kindness, for which we are most grateful."

Charles and his Queen Camilla were greeted with great pomp earlier Wednesday in a ceremony at Paris' Arc de Triomphe by French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte.

The trip to France originally was planned for March but had to be postponed becasue of widespread demonstrations against Macron's pension changes.

"It's up to all of us to reinvigorate our friendship to meet the challenges of the 21st century," Charles said in Versailles.

Macron called the visit "a sign of friendship and trust that we truly appreciate and that deeply touches us."

Women in flowing gowns and men in tuxedos walked down a red carpet rolled out on the cobblestones of Versailles. Some of the guests paused and posed for photographers in a scene reminiscent of the Cannes Film Festival.

Camilla and Brigitte Macron appeared to have coordinated, wearing navy blue evening dresses.

Among those invited were British actor Hugh Grant, writer Ken Follett, Rolling Stones' singer Mike Jagger, sport figures including football player Didier Drogba and the head of the Paris Olympics organization committee, Tony Estanguet, as well as many CEOs and senior politicians.

The menu included blue lobster and crab followed by Bresse poultry and a gratin of cep mushrooms prepared, respectively, by French chefs Anne-Sophie Pic and Yannick Alléno. Both have been awarded three Michelin stars. The cheese course featured France's Comté and Britain's Stichelton blue cheese. For dessert, world-famous pastry chef Pierre Hermé prepared his rose macaroon cookie, made of rose petal cream, raspberries and lychees.

Life & Style

Kevin Costner, wife Christine Baumgartner reach divorce settlement and avoid trial

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Costner and his wife of nearly 19 years, Christine Baumgartner, have reached a settlement in their divorce.

"Kevin and Christine Costner have come to an amicable and mutually agreed upon resolution of all issues pertaining to their divorce proceedings," the couple said in a joint statement released Tuesday by the actor's publicist, Arnold Robinson.

The agreement ends what had become a contentious court fight, and lets the couple avoid a trial that had been scheduled for December in a Santa Barbara County, California court.

Baumgartner filed for divorce in May.

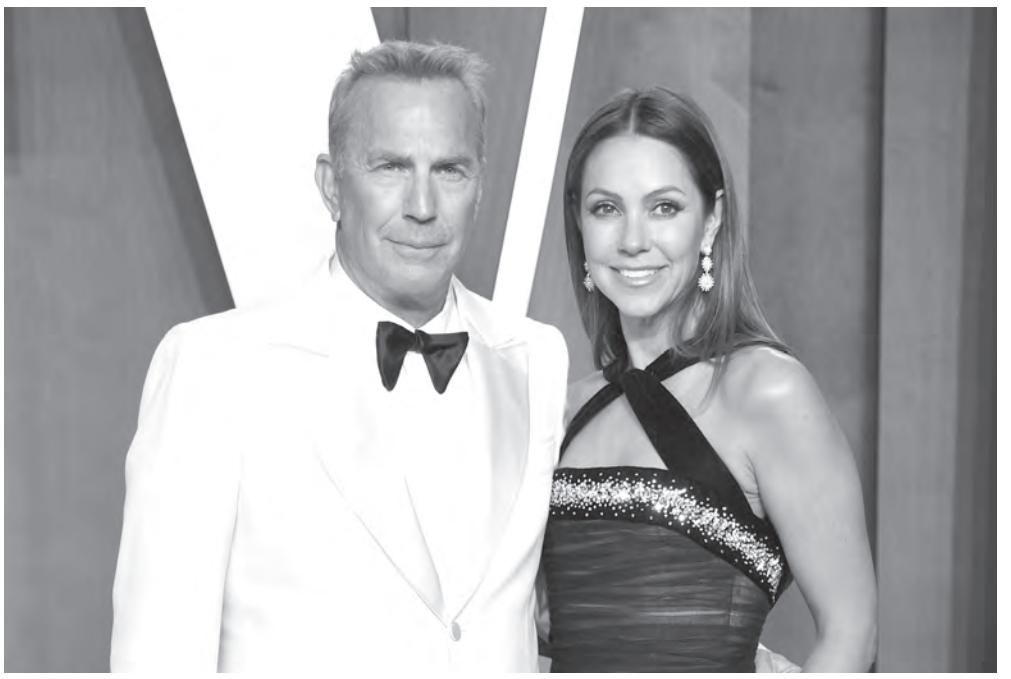
The two had already fought in court over child support payments. After a two-day hearing in which both Costner, 68, and Baumgartner, 49, took the stand to testify, a judge on Sept. 8 ordered Costner to pay about $63,000 per month for their three children, People reported. Baumgartner had sought about $175,000 per month.

Costner and Baumgartner, a model and handbag designer, began dating in 1998 and married at his Colorado ranch in 2004.

They have two sons, ages 16 and 14, and a 12-year-old daughter together.

It was the second marriage for Costner, the Oscar and Emmy winning star of TV's "Yellowstone" and films including "Dances With Wolves," "The Bodyguard" and "Bull Durham."

He also has four adult children from previous relationships.



AP

Kevin Costner, left, and Christine Baumgartner arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party on March 27, 2022, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

John Grisham, George R.R. Martin, more authors sue OpenAI for copyright infringement

NEW YORK (AP)—John Grisham, Jodi Picoult and George R.R. Martin are among 17 authors suing OpenAI for "systematic theft on a mass scale," the latest in a wave of legal action by writers concerned that artificial intelligence programs are using their copyrighted works without permission.

In papers filed Tuesday in federal court in New York, the authors alleged "flagrant and harmful infringements of plaintiffs' registered copyrights" and called the ChatGPT program a "massive commercial enterprise" that is reliant upon "systematic theft on a mass scale."

The suit was organized by the Authors Guild and also includes David Baldacci, Sylvia Day, Jonathan Franzen and Elin Hilderbrand among others.

"It is imperative that we stop this theft in its tracks or we will destroy our incredible literary culture, which feeds many other creative industries in the U.S.," Authors Guild CEO Mary Rasenberger said in a statement. "Great books are generally written by those who spend their careers and, indeed, their lives, learning and perfecting their crafts. To preserve our literature, authors must have the ability to control if and how their works are used by generative AI."

The lawsuit cites specific ChatGPT searches for each author, such as one for Martin that alleges the program generated "an infringing, unauthorized, and detailed outline for a prequel" to "A Game of Thrones" that was titled "A Dawn of Direwolves" and used "the same characters from Martin's existing books in the series "A Song of Ice and Fire."

In a statement Wednesday, an OpenAI spokesperson said that the company respects "the rights of writers and authors, and believe they should benefit from AI technology.

"We're having productive conversations with many creators around the world, including the Authors Guild, and have been working cooperatively to understand and discuss their concerns about AI. We're optimistic we will continue to find mutually beneficial ways to work together to help people utilize new technology in a rich content ecosystem," the statement reads.

AP

Author John Grisham appears at the opening night of "A Time To Kill" on Broadway in New York on Oct. 20, 2013, left, and author R.R. Martin appears in Toronto on March 12, 2012.

First Bob Ross TV painting, completed in a half an hour, goes on sale for nearly $10M

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—What would Bob Ross think?

The artist who brought painting to the people, with works completed for PBS viewers in less than a half-hour with little more than a large bristle brush, putty knife and plenty of encouragement, certainly wouldn't have envisioned one of his works going up for sale for nearly $10 million.

But that's the price a Minneapolis gallery is asking for "A Walk in the Woods," the first of more than 400 paintings that Ross produced on-air for his TV series "The Joy of Painting."

"It is season one, episode one of what you would call the rookie card for Bob Ross," Ryan Nelson, who owns the gallery, Modern Artifact, said of the work created in the show's debut, which aired Jan. 11, 1983.

Growing up in a small town, Nelson said he was introduced to art through Ross' show and loves his paintings. He doesn't expect a quick sale given the high asking price, which he sees as an opportunity to display the painting for a larger audience.

On that first show where he painted "A Walk in the Woods," Ross—sporting his beloved perm, full beard and unbuttoned shirt—stressed that painting didn't need to be pretentious.

AP

"A Walk in the Woods," the first painting Bob Ross produced for hic iconic show "The Joy of Painting," sits on display at the home of Modern Artifact owner Ryan Nelson, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, in Wayzata, Minn. .

Expectant mom feels unsupported by in-laws, husband

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are expecting our first child this year. I moved to the United States a few years ago to be with him. His family is mostly absent from our lives. I have tried to make an effort with my in-laws, but it's always met with failure. They make excuses, so we have come to accept that we see them only during holidays. It has put a strain on our marriage.

Now that I'm pregnant, and this is her first grandchild, I thought my MIL might like to spend more time together. Unfortunately, the joke is on me because she's now criticizing me for taking time off work because morning sickness was tough on me. She has made hurtful comments to my husband that have now caused him to treat me with little respect or compassion. I am depressed and wonder if I made a mistake by marrying him and getting pregnant. It takes a village to raise children, and we do not have a village behind us. It sometimes feels like my husband isn't behind me, either. What do I do?

EXPECTING IN INDIANA

DEAR EXPECTING: Sit your husband down and tell him you need him to stand beside you—and stand up for you—in the months ahead. When you do, you will see exactly the kind of person you married. You can't control your in-laws, so accept that they will likely not be a large part of your lives. (If they are as you have portrayed them, that could be a blessing.) Make friends with other new and expectant mothers who may be a source of emotional and practical support in the adventure upon which you are embarking. Remind yourself that you are capable and you will get through this, as you will with other challenges life presents to you. You may think right now that you won't be able to handle a new baby without the help of your family or your in-laws, but you may find out you are a lot stronger than you think.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is there a rule of etiquette for changing seats in a bar setting? I enjoy going out to eat occasionally and, when I do, I like to sit at the bar and eat while having a drink. It seems lately, more often than not, I'm asked to move down a seat or two to accommodate another two or three people. Depending on my mood, I may or may not do it. Since this happens to me quite frequently, I am declining more and more often. Either way, I think it's rude to ask a stranger to move just so the other party can have enough seats. By the way, I have moved out of courtesy if I am not eating, but to ask me to move while I'm eating is unacceptable. Your thoughts?

IN PLACE IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR IN PLACE: I realize that some people may not agree, but I don't regard politely asking someone to move down a couple of stools at a bar as an unforgivable intrusion. The gracious response to that request would be to accommodate the larger party, as long as you are not required to move away from the bar. I would have no problem doing it.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

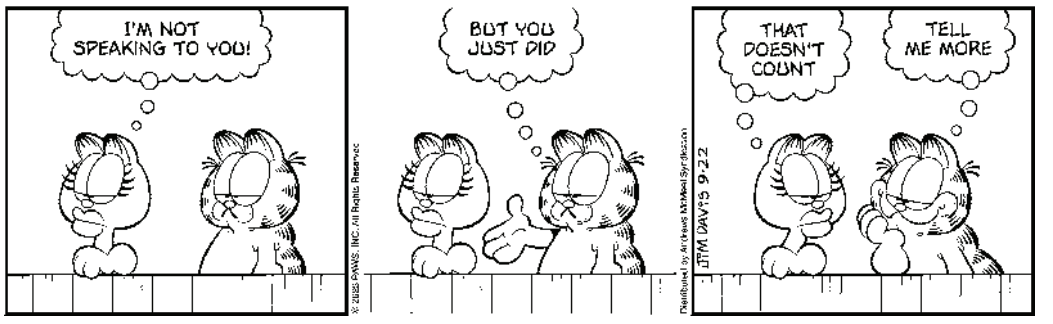
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MY WATCH TELLS THE TIME, THE DAY, AND THE DATE.
IT DOESN'T TELL WHAT MONTH IT IS, THOUGH. I NEED A WATCH THAT TELLS THE MONTH.
I SUPPOSE THEY FIGURE IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT MONTH IT IS, YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO'D WEAR A WATCH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I WROTE AND DREW A GRAPHIC NOVEL.
OH, COOL!
IT'S CALLED "MY DAD LOVES COFFEE AND NAPS AND SNACKS."
OKAY. INTERESTING TITLE.
IT'S A BIT AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL.
YEAH. I PICKED UP ON THAT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

...AND THE LADY WILL HAVE THE CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP.
I TOLD YOU EARLIER I WAS GOING TO GET THE SPAGHETTI.
I'M BROKE, SO IF I'M WASHING DISHES HERE TONIGHT, I DON'T WANT TO MESS WITH STICKY PASTA SAUCE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

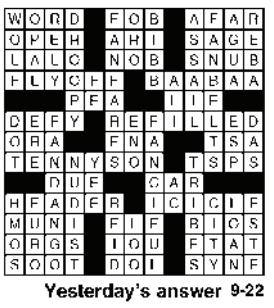
ACROSS

1 Dad's brother
6 Scale notes
9 Many coll. applicants
12 Respectful denial
13 Likely
14 — Beta Kappa
15 Rude observer
16 "The Waste Land" poet
18 Change gradually
20 Sicilian spouter
21 Part of DJIA
23 Outdoor gear brand
24 Surgical beam
25 Yale students
27 Vice President Burr
29 Italian scooters
31 Meaning
35 Locales
37 Theater award
38 Sidestep
41 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace
43 Bankroll
44 Gum flavor
45 Diocese part
47 "A Taste for Death" author
49 Inventor Howe
52 Asian language
53 "A snake!"
54 Gambling game
55 TV Tarzan Ron
56 — -la-la
57 Considers

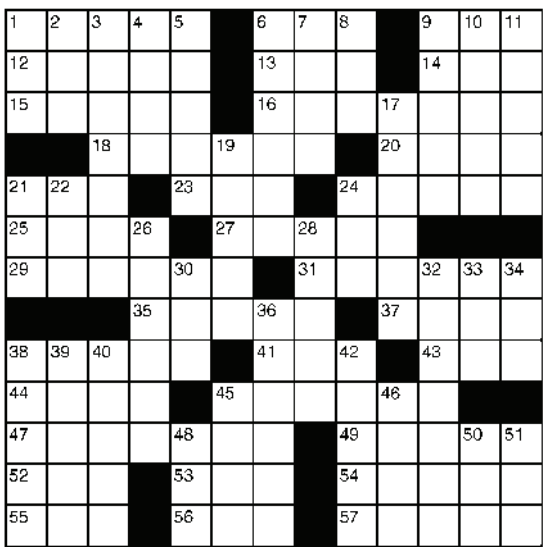
DOWN

1 Dos preceder
2 Yule quaff
3 "The Chronicles of Narnia" author
4 Actor Schreiber
5 Goof
6 Riga's land
7 Church section
8 Fr. holy woman
9 Barbecue rods
10 Avignon's river
11 "Norwegian Wood" instrument
17 Crude shed
19 Rental contract
21 "Lion" actor Patel
22 Flamenco cheer
24 Chaney of horror films
26 Rival of Athens
28 Stair part
30 Gallery display
32 "Charlotte's Web" author
33 Actress Vardalos
34 Slugger Williams
36 Nome's state
38 Sufficient
39 Hair stylist Sassoon
40 "Have fun!"
42 Brandish
45 Equal
46 — gin fizz
48 Bumped into
50 $ dispenser
51 "Mayday!"

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Felton, 36; Bonnie Hunt, 62; Andrea Bocelli, 65; Joan Jett, 65.

Happy Birthday: If you keep records, say what you mean and stick to the truth, and everything you want will follow. Watch for signals that give you the go-ahead to make swift changes that will guide you toward stability and away from confusion and people who love chaos. Make decisions that reflect what you want. This moment in time is a turning point in your life that needs addressing; don't put off the inevitable. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 23, 34, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't wait for someone to take over. If you put more energy into your dreams, you'll get good results. A social event will lead to temptation. Monitor your intake and choose your words wisely, and you'll outmaneuver anyone who tries to get in your way. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Let your intellect guide you. Gather information conducive to sound decisions that will encourage you to surround yourself with people who are there to help instead of taking advantage of you. Network and mix business with pleasure to gain access to valuable information. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let anyone cloud your vision or give you the runaround. Be prepared to take care of health and personal matters yourself. Concentrate on health and exercise. Don't let down your guard or give in to temptation. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be honest with yourself. Establish what you want so you can make your way to your objective. Anger or trying to fit too much into a short time frame will leave you spinning your wheels but going nowhere fast. Focus and you'll make progress. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Follow your heart and pursue what's essential. Control situations by taking charge and giving your all. Personal gain and growth will help tame your ego and offer insight into what's possible. Don't share personal matters. Someone will reveal private information you share if you are too accommodating. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be creative regarding investments, contracts and money management. A conversation will offer information that gives insight into something new and exciting. Be careful not to overextend yourself. Keep your overhead and expectations reasonable. Avoid debt and stress. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Reach out to someone you trust and share ideas, information and skills to benefit one another. Get involved in a cause or event that lifts you and energizes you mentally, physically and emotionally. Travel, education, love and communication are favored. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Incorporate change into your daily routine and relationships with others. Spice things up; find a way to stimulate your mind and get back into the swing of things. Your long game is to achieve stability and add dimension to your life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Establish what's true and what isn't, and question how you want to proceed. Finding accurate information will be difficult, and persistence will be necessary if you want to consider every angle before you make your next move.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Don't jeopardize your financial stability. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't share financial, medical or legal matters. Initiate changes at home that will save you money and ease stress. Refuse to let someone close to you talk you into something. A realistic approach to contracts and investments is necessary. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Distance yourself from people who are poor influences. Have faith in yourself and spend time on personal growth, physical improvements and getting your life in order. Commit yourself to finishing what you start, and end what's not working for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Size up your situation, establish what you want and turn your thoughts into a reality. Take charge and initiate change with strength and courage; the outcome will be refreshing and help you gain respect. Reevaluate your connections and declutter your contact list. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, meticulous and protective. You are responsive and emotional.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		8	7		
		1	2				9	
				6	3			2
		2						6
		9			6	4		1
5			8		1			
		5	4				7	
8			1					
		3			7		8	5

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	9	3	1	7	4	2	8	6
6	1	2	8	9	3	5	7	4
4	7	8	6	5	2	1	9	3
9	8	4	7	2	1	3	6	5
7	2	6	5	3	9	4	1	8
1	3	5	4	8	6	7	2	9
3	5	7	2	6	8	9	4	1
2	6	1	9	4	5	8	3	7
8	4	9	3	1	7	6	5	2

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Difficulty: ★★★ 9/21

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TUSCAN PANZANELLA SALAD Solution: 6 letters

A	M	S	R	E	B	M	U	C	U	C	U	P	S	A
R	T	O	C	H	O	P	P	E	D	A	E	R	B	L
V	A	T	O	T	W	O	R	E	G	A	N	O	C	L
E	A	G	A	L	L	P	O	P	R	G	L	O	B	E
G	V	M	E	B	R	R	A	A	D	I	J	O	N	R
E	O	V	I	N	A	I	G	R	E	T	T	E	T	A
T	C	A	S	N	I	I	E	G	S	P	L	O	C	Z
A	A	S	G	E	T	V	C	H	S	L	A	A	I	Z
B	D	E	L	A	I	H	Y	N	O	S	E	G	S	O
L	O	A	L	I	E	V	O	T	T	M	R	Y	S	M
E	T	Y	K	R	C	I	O	E	R	E	I	E	A	O
S	S	R	R	E	N	E	D	H	E	A	P	M	L	I
R	O	Y	F	O	O	D	D	N	C	L	E	O	C	S
F	A	S	A	N	M	A	R	Z	A	N	O	H	S	T
E	K	A	B	R	O	S	B	A	L	S	A	M	I	C

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Absorb, Anchovies, Avocado, Bake, Balsamic, Bowl, Bread, Cherry, Chopped, Ciabatta, Classic, Cucumbers, Cups, Dijon, Food, Fork, Globe, Grape, Green, Hearty, Heirloom, Home, Italy, Meal, Moist, Mozzarella, Onion, Orange, Oregano, Parsley, Pear, Ripe, Salt, San Marzano, Sliced, Soak, Stale, Toasted, Tomato, Tossed, Vegetables, Vinaigrette, Vinegar

Yesterday's Answer: Thoroughbred

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION** #1 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Castellanos hits 2 homers, as Phillies beat Braves 6-5 in 10

ATLANTA (AP)—Nick Castellanos hit two home runs and saved the game with a brilliant throw as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Atlanta Braves in 10 innings, handing the NL East champions their fifth loss in six games.

The Braves rallied from a four-run deficit and had a chance to walk off with the win in the ninth after pinch-runner Luke Williams stole second and third.

Orlando Arcia hit a fly ball down the right-field line that appeared deep enough to bring home the tagging Williams. But Castellanos made the catch in foul territory, spun around and threw home in time for Garrett Stubbs to tag the runner on the right shoulder before his foot touched the plate.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies right fielder Nick Castellanos, left, celebrates with Philadelphia Phillies catcher Garrett Stubbs (21) after a win against the Atlanta Braves, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023, in Atlanta.

ASTROS 2, ORIOLES 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Mauricio Dubon's RBI single with one out in the ninth inning lifted Houston to the win over Baltimore, helping the Astros avoid a sweep and stay a half-game ahead of Texas for first place in the AL West.

Yainer Diaz doubled to right field off Danny Coulombe (5-2) to start Houston's ninth, and he moved to third on a groundout by Chas McCormick.

Dubon then singled into the gap in right field to score Diaz.

Closer Ryan Pressly (4-5) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

TIGERS 4, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rookie Reese Olson won for the third time in his last four starts, combining with two relievers on a three-hitter to help Detroit beat Los Angeles.

Olson (5-7) allowed one run on two hits in six innings. His only mistake came in the sixth inning when Max Muncy drove an elevated slider into the stands in right-center to trim the Tigers' lead to 2-1.

The 24-year-old right-hander has given up just five runs in 30 innings over his last five starts. Will Vest worked 1 2/3 innings for his second save.

Kerry Carpenter had two doubles and scored a pair of runs. Tyler Nevin and Carson Kelly both had two hits and drove in a run for Detroit.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, GIANTS 1

PHOENIX (AP)—Merrill Kelly threw 6 2/3 strong innings, Corbin Carroll hit his 25th homer and stole his 50th base of the season, and Arizona won its fifth straight game by beating San Francisco.

Kelly (12-7) gave up one run on three hits, walking two and striking out five.

Arizona's four-run seventh put the game out of reach. Carroll and Ketel Marte led off with back-to-back homers off reliever Ryan Walker, extending Arizona's lead to 5-1. Gabriel Moreno and Emmanuel Rivera added RBI singles.

San Francisco right-hander Logan Webb (10-13) gave up three runs on nine hits and two walks over six innings, striking out four. The Giants have lost five of their past six.

TWINS 5, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jorge Polanco's two-run single capped a three-run ninth inning, helping Minnesota overcome Hunter Greene's 14 strikeouts to beat Cincinnati.

With Minnesota trailing 3-2, Willi Castro singled leading off the ninth against Reds closer Alexis Díaz (9-5), then stole second and took third on catcher Luke Maile's throwing error. Kyle Farmer followed with a tying single.

Polanco hit a bases-loaded, two-out single off Sam Moll that scored Farmer and Christian Vázquez. Griffin Jax pitched the bottom of the inning for his third save.

NATIONALS 13, WHITE SOX 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lane Thomas hit a grand slam for Washington in a rout of Chicago.

Joey Meneses and Dominic Smith also homered for Washington, which had a season high in runs and won back-to-back games for the first time since taking three in a row from Aug. 24-26.

Gavin Sheets drove in two runs for Chicago, which has dropped nine of its last 12 games and 14 of 19.

Thomas broke the game open after Jesse Scholtens allowed Luis García's single, hit Jake Alu and walked CJ Abrams to load the bases in the third inning. Thomas hammered a curveball to left for his 26th home run and second career grand slam to put Washington up 8-1.

Thomas also walked twice and was hit by a pitch.

RANGERS 15, RED SOX 5

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Marcus Semien drove in three runs and scored for the AL-best 115th time, Jonah Heim and Mitch Garver hit back-to-back homers and playoff-chasing Texas beat Boston.

Rookies Josh Jung and Evan Carter each added two-run homers for the Rangers, who remain a half-game behind Houston for the AL West lead and tied with division foe Seattle for the American League's third and final wild-card spot.

Left-hander Martin Perez (10-4) struck out five while allowing three hits over 4 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of Jon Gray.

Boston, last in the AL East after losing 12 of 15 games, dropped its fifth consecutive series even after jumping ahead 4-0. Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer in the first and Bobby Dalbec had a leadoff shot in the second.

ROYALS 6, GUARDIANS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Nelson Velázquez hit a three-run homer, Angel Zerpa shut down Cleveland in relief of Zack Greinke, and Kansas City rolled to the victory and a three-game sweep.

Zerpa (3-3) got the final out of the fourth inning and allowed three hits the rest of the way. He struck out four without a walk.

Bobby Witt Jr. and Edward Olivares also drove in runs to send the Royals on their final road trip having won six of their past seven games.

PADRES 3, ROCKIES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Luis Campusano tied the game with a bases-loaded single with one out in the seventh and Ji Man Choi followed with a sacrifice fly for his first RBI with San Diego, who beat Colorado to extend their season-best winning streak to seven.

Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his 31st save, retiring Brendan Rodgers with a runner on third. Luis Garcia (2-3) got the win and Rockies starter Chase Anderson (0-6) took the loss.

A day after breaking up San Diego's combined no-hitter leading off the ninth, Rodgers homered to left-center with one out in the first off Seth Lugo.

The Rockies made it 2-0 when Sean Bouchard singled in rookie Nolan Jones with two outs.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Dominic Canzone homered and drove in four runs as Seattle beat Oakland to complete a three-game sweep and maintain their position in the tight AL West race.

Julio Rodríguez and Cal Raleigh added back-to-back homers to give Seattle 200 home runs in a season for the seventh time in franchise history. Raleigh also doubled, giving him 52 extra-base hits, the most by a Mariners catcher in a season.

Seattle remained tied with Texas for the third AL wild-card berth and one-half game behind Houston in the AL West. The Rangers and Astros both won.

Rodríguez reached 100 RBIs, becoming the third player age 22 or younger with at least 30 homers, 30 stolen bases and 100 RBIs in a season, joining Alex Rodriguez (1998) and Ronald Acuña Jr. (2019).

George Kirby (11-10) scattered eight hits across seven innings, allowing three runs and striking out three. Justin Topa pitched a scoreless ninth for his third save.

In his major league debut, Joey Estes (0-1) allowed six runs, five earned, on six hits with two strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings.

ANGELS 8, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Brandon Drury homered twice with five RBIs and Los Angeles stopped a six-game skid by beating AL wild card-leading Tampa Bay.

Tampa Bay remained 2 1/2 games behind first-place Baltimore in the AL East.

Drury hit a three-run drive off Aaron Civale (7-5) during a four-run second that put the Angels ahead 6-0. He made it 8-1 on his 23rd homer, a two-run shot in the sixth against Erasmo Ramírez.

Civale allowed six runs and seven hits over three innings.

Reid Detmers lasted just four innings despite being staked to a six-run lead. The lefty allowed one run, three hits and two walks but struggled with his command and threw 96 pitches

Yandy Díaz cut the deficit to 8-3 when he flared a two-run double down the right-field line in the sixth off Andrew Wantz (2-0).

BLUE JAYS 6, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Gausman tossed six shutout innings and Toronto beat New York for their fifth consecutive victory.

Locked in a heated playoff race, the Blue Jays scored five times in the final two innings and stayed a game ahead of Texas and Seattle for the second of three American League wild cards.

Spencer Horwitz had three RBIs, Bo Bichette drove in two runs and the Blue Jays drew five walks in the eighth from two relievers—including four in a row and two with the bases loaded.

That made a hard-luck loser of Michael King (4-7), a converted reliever who struck out 13 over seven innings on 101 pitches.

BREWERS 8, CARDINALS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Josh Donaldson hit a three-run homer in the first inning, Tyrone Taylor homered twice and Milwaukee beat St. Louis to take another step toward their second NL Central title in three years.

Donaldson homered off Zack Thompson (5-7), the former AL MVP's second home run since he was released by the New York Yankees and signed by Milwaukee.

Mark Canha hit a three-run double in the ninth inning for Milwaukee. Acquired from the Mets ahead of the trade deadline, Canha has 30 RBIs in 42 games with the Brewers after getting 29 in 89 games with New York.

St. Louis lost its 85th game for the first time since 1999. The Cardinals (67-85) already were assured of their first losing season since 2007.

Taylor hit solo drives in the fourth off Thompson and in the ninth against Casey Lawrence.

Adrian Houser (7-4) won his third straight decision, giving up one run and four hits in six innings.

METS 8, MARLINS 3

MIAMI (AP)—Mark Vientos had his first career multi-homer game, Brandon Nimmo hit a home run, double and single, and New York beat Miami.

Kodai Senga threw six innings of two-run ball while Brett Baty also went deep for the Mets, who clinched the three-game series against the playoff-contending Marlins.

Senga (12-7) gave up seven hits, struck out three and walked two.

Vientos gave New York an early lead with his solo shot in the second, driving a slider from Eury Pérez (5-6) over the wall in left. Vientos connected with his second solo shot off reliever George Soriano in the sixth.

Josh Bell hit a solo homer for Miami in the sixth.

Baty and Nimmo hit solo blasts against off Johnny Cueto in the eighth and ninth.

PIRATES 13, CUBS 7

CHICAGO (AP) — Joshua Palacios hit a three-run homer in a seven-run fourth inning and Pittsburgh beat Chicago, which lost for the sixth time in its last seven games.

Connor Joe hit a two-run homer in the sixth as All-Star Justin Steele (16-5) lost his second straight start, allowing six runs and eight hits in three-plus innings.

Chicago, which has lost nine of 12, remained a half-game ahead of Miami for the third NL wild-card spot.

Ian Happ's third career grand slam, a drive off Mitch Keller (13-9) in a five-run fifth, cut the deficit to 8-6.

Keller yielded seven runs and nine hits while striking out six in 5 2/3 innings as the Pirates beat the Cubs for just the second time in 12 games this season.

Asian Games: Larger than Olympics with array of regional, global sports

By STEPHEN WADE
AP SPORTS WRITER

AP

Athletes from Yemen take photograph with a mascot of the 19th Asian Games during the team welcoming ceremony at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023.

The Asian Games are an attention grabber. For starters, they involve more participants than the Summer Olympics. Organizers say more than 12,000 will be entered when the opening ceremony takes place Saturday in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou. This is more than the 10,500 expected for next year's Paris Olympics.

The giant numbers are partly due to the staggering array of events with many regional specialties, sports, and games you won't find in the Olympics. And there's also cricket, which appears headed to the Olympics as soon as 2028 in Los Angeles, and certainly for 2032 in Brisbane, Australia.

And there's squash, which has tried several times for Olympic recognition.

The regional fare includes dragon boat racing, sepaktakraw—sometimes called "kick volleyball—wushu, a Chinese martial art, and kabaddi, a popular contact sport on the Indian subcontinent. There is also the non-Olympic martial art of ju-jitsu, and kurash, a form of wrestling popular in central Asia.

To this, add a long list of what organizers call "mind sports" from bridge to chess to xiangqi (Chinese chess) to esports.

Of course, there are the old standbys seen in every Olympics like track and field, swimming, or volleyball—and the usual grandiose opening and closing ceremonies. Nine sports will offer qualification spots for the Olympics—archery, artistic swimming, boxing, breaking, hockey, modern pentathlon, sailing, tennis, and water polo.

However, most of the 481 events offer a chance for smaller delegations to win medals, which is often impossible at the Olympics.

China won almost 300 overall medals at the last Asian Games in Indonesia in 2018. At the bottom of the table, Syria and Nepal won a lone medal each. Bhutan and Bangladesh were among nine delegations that didn't win any.

China will dominate the medal table as it has for the last 40 years, followed by Japan and South Korea—Asia's other powers. The vast region stretches from Lebanon on the Mediterranean, through central Asia and the Indian subcontinent, to North Korea with organizers saying 45 nations or territories are entered.

Organizers have said 191 participants from North Korea will be on hand. North Korea closed it border early in 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic and skipped the Tokyo Olympics, which were delayed a year until 2021. The Asian Games were also pushed back a year from 2022 because of the pandemic.

According to South Korea's Unification Ministry, the last time North Korean athletes appeared in an international sports competition was January 2020, when North Korea competed in the Asian Football Confederation's under-23 soccer championship.

If you like political intrigue, there may be plenty of it.

The self-governing island of Taiwan will be on hand in China, which claims the democracy as a breakaway province that it has vowed to reclaim it. Known as the Republic of China, the island is officially listed as Chinese Taipei in the Olympics and Asian Games and marches under a white flag adorned with the Olympics rings. Its red, blue and white flag is in not allowed.

Taiwan, with only 23.5 million, is a relative sports power in the region and finished seventh in the overall medal standings in Indonesia.

The games also begin amid an open power struggle between International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach and Kuwait's Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, a long-time IOC member who is often described as the "kingmaker" who helped Bach win the IOC presidency in Buenos Aires in 2013.

The Switzerland-based IOC openly intervened in July to invalidate the presidential election of the Olympic Council of Asia. It has also suspended Sheikh Ahmad from the IOC.

The election was ostensibly won by Kuwait's Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the younger brother of Sheikh Ahmad. The elder sheikh is the former 30-year president of the OCA, an organization that was created by his father.

The IOC says it will continue to recognize Randhir Singh of India as interim president of the OCA until new elections are held. Bach will attend the opening ceremony in Hangzhou and is sure to have talks with Singh.

The biggest event of the games might be a possible India vs. Pakistan gold-medal game in men's cricket on Oct. 7, which would be one of the most-watched global sports events all year. It comes just as cricket's world cup is also underway.

China will again dominate diving, and several of China's top swimmers—fresh from the world championships two months ago in Fukuoka, Japan—will shine. The field in gymnastics is weakened since the world championships in Antwerp, Belgium, clash with the Asian Games.

The biggest winner at the Asian Games might be South Korea esports star Lee Sanghyeok, who is also known as "Faker." If he wins gold he will be granted an exemption from military service.

Tottenham Hotspur soccer forward Son Heung-min also bypassed a 21-month military stint because of a government exemption when South Korea won the gold medal in soccer at the 2018 games in Indonesia—although Son still had to do three months of basic training.

Asian Games offer few sports you may not recognize

By STEPHEN WADE
AP SPORTS WRITER

» How about kabaddi, sepaktakraw, and wushu?

If you're bored with day-in, day-out sports like basketball or swimming or volleyball, then check out the Asian Games when they open officially on Saturday in Hangzhou, China.

Of course, the games will have the regular Olympic menu of events with some offering qualifying spot for next year's Paris Olympics.

But much of the focus will be on sports that are popular in a region that represents 45 nations and territories. About 12,500 are participating, more than the Summer Olympics.

Some of the regional sports specialties include kabaddi, sepaktakraw, wushu, and kurash. The Asian Games will also feature so-called "mind sports" that include bridge, chess, xiangqi (known as Chinese chess) and several others.

Esports, offered as a demonstration sport five years ago at the games in Indonesia, is official this time and should be a big hit.

AP

Japan's Toshitaka Naito, center, kicks a ball against Indonesia's Nofrizal Nofrizal, left, and Saiful Rijal during the men's quadrant gold medal match at the 18th Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia, on Sept. 1, 2018.

KABADDI

This homegrown sport from the Indian subcontinent is so popular that the area hosts a professional league that draws millions of viewers. The sport involves no clubs, rackets, goals—and not even a ball. Kabaddi—pronounced kuh-bud-DEE—was played as an exhibition sport in the 1936 Berlin Olympics but has never gained a wide following outside the Indian subcontinent.

It bears a rough resemblance to the schoolyard game known in the United States as "Red Rover," or a game known in England as "British Bulldog."

Two teams with seven players each compete on a small court. A single player on the offense—called a "raider"—crosses the centerline and tries in 30 seconds to touch as many players as possible on the other side and return across the centerline without being tackled. It's played in a pair of 20-minute halves. Points are earned by tagging opponents, or by stopping the raider.

SEPAKTAKRAW

This is essentially volleyball, with a few big differences. Players can't use their hands—they can use anything else—and the ball it primarily kicked over a five-foot high net. There are two, three or four players on each side and in the United States, at least, the sport is often known as "kick volleyball."

Like volleyball, the goal is to get the ball to hit the ground on the opponent's side of the net. The ball is smaller than a volleyball or soccer ball—about the size of a cantaloupe or a large grapefruit. "Sepak" is the word in Malay for "kick," and "takraw" has its origin in the the Thai language and means "woven rattan ball."

The game has its roots primarily in Malaysia and elsewhere across Southeast Asia.

WUSHU

Wushu, also known as kung fu, is the Chinese term for "martial arts." It has had a presence in the Asian Games since 1990 when it was introduced at the games in Beijing. It has also been proposed as an Olympic sport but has not been voted in.

Competition takes place in two distinct areas.

Competition in talou involves performing sets and choreographed routines that show off principles of attack and defense. These involve jumps, stances and footwork. Sanda is the full-contact version of the sport and is often known as Chinese kickboxing.

China won 10 gold medals in wushu at the 2018 Asian Games with two for Iran, and one each for Indonesia and Macau. Macau is part of China. China is expected to again dominate.

KURASH

This involves a range of folk wrestling styles that are popular in Central Asia. It was first introduced into the Asian Games fives years ago in Indonesia when Uzbekistan topped the medal table in the sport. Historians say the sport dates to thousands of years. Iran, Mongolia, Taiwan, and India also won multiple medals in 2018.

2nd TTT Mix Classic Fishing tourney to push on tomorrow

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Third time's the charm as Tasi To Table's 2nd Annual Mix Classic Fishing Tournament is set yet again for tomorrow, Saturday, Sept. 23.

Registration day is today, Friday, Sept. 22 from 4pm to 6pm at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The tournament is from 6am to 5pm also at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The fee is $200 per vessel consisting of one captain and two anglers; $30 for each additional angler.

Each registration comes with a limited-edition 2nd Annual TTT Mix Classic sun shirt with hood and mask, and other giveaways to be distributed on registration day.

According to TTT, the purpose of the event is to maximize fishing tournaments for the CNMI where anglers compete for prizes offered.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit the 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation of TTT Inc. to support its continued mission for the youth programs spearheaded by TTT Inc. with the CNMI Public School System.

The TTT Mix Classic Fishing Tournament is a new tournament focusing on targeted pelagic fish species. However, in order to qualify your catch, submitting captain/anglers catch must include a combination of the qualifying pelagic species.

The qualifying pelagic species are as follows: billfish, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, mahi mahi, and skipjack tuna.

The combined weight of the two different pelagic species (ex: billfish and wahoo, yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna…) selected by the team in competition is their weight category to determine the winner. Two of the same species do not qualify.

The prizes for first place is a whopping $3,000; second place is $2,000; third place is $1,000; fourth place is $750; and fifth place is $500.

Sponsors of the event are IT&E, IP&E, Bud Light, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, and Marianas Visitors Authority.

FLOYD MASGA

Carmelita II's Reynaldo "Balong" Fiel and captain Jeremy Koshiro, right, pose with their 158-lb marlin during last year's Tasi To Table Inc. Inaugural Mix Classic.

Edward Sablan is August ace

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Edward Sablan won the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sept. 10 at Coral Ocean Resort.

Sablan fired a net score of 67 to beat all comers following a gross score of 94. He carded a 45-49 in the front and back nine.

Sablan

Larry Deleon Guerrero finished second in the competition after the former lawmaker came away with an even 70 net. His 43 in the first nine holes and 47 in the back was good for a gross of 90.

Frances Sablan completed the Top 3 for the monthly tourney after her net 72 (gross of 101, 49-52).

In the closest to the pin competition, Edward Manibusan topped holes No. 3 and 14, Joe I. Sablan won hole No. 9, while Edward Sablan was without peer in hole No. 12.

In the longest drive, Edward Sablan brought the lumber in hole No. 6, while Tony Reyes did the same in hole No. 18.

With his win in the August ace, Edward Sablan now joins SGA 2023 Ace of Aces Tournament qualifiers Ray Salas (January), Das Krishnan (February), Joe I. Sablan (March), Rick Kautz (April), Nick Sablan (May), Tony Reyes (June) and Larry Deleon Guerrero (July).

The SGA 2023 September Ace of the Month Tournament is scheduled on Sunday, Sep. 24, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course. Tee time is 9am with a show time of 8:30am.

JUNE

From page 24

need for a fourth player.

There's no CNMI women's team representing the CNMI in the Pacific Games.

Lydia Tan, who helped coordinate the tryouts as national coach Jeff Race is off-island, said of Yu's selection into the team, "It's good for June to represent NMI in the Pacific Games and he will gain a lot of exposure. He will be a good addition to the team"

For the young athletes who tried out, she said, "It's good for them. They are our upcoming junior [representatives]. If they want to play college tennis, it's good exposure for them," she said. "If you train for it, you might have a chance. Just go out there and do your best. Success comes from hard work and training."

When asked what the chances are for the CNMI getting a podium finish in the Games, Tan was hopeful. "It's hard. Other countries will send their best players. Too bad Colin Sinclair won't be able to join us… but I feel like they would place something."

LEIGH GASES

From left, La Hunn Lam, Nason Wessel, and June Yu pose for a photo during the tryouts for the CNMI Men's National Tennis team Tuesday afternoon at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

With the team now set, they will continue their training and practices at the American Memorial Park tennis courts until before the Games in November.

MP

From page 24

Novice Division

In the Novice Division Fall 2023 Dove Women's League, Paire FC outgoaled Shirley's FC, 5-1.

Paire's Camia Sablan made it 2-0 27 minutes in. Shirley's have yet to score and not even two minutes later, Camayah Sablan scored Paire's third goal.

When Camia completed the hat-trick in the 41st minute, Shayna Cooper finally put Shirley's up on the board, 1-4. It was too little too late however, as Paire added one more in the 59th minute and handed the loss to Shirley's.

In other games, Latte FC went away with the win, 4-0 over Kanoa FC; and MP United 2 and Matansa FC ended in a 1-1 draw.

MAULER

From page 24

learn the procedures of boxing. Movement, footsteps, combination, balance—everything. After that, when the ring comes, then it's time to proceed to the next level."

Cabael said of Arrozal, "He has the experience to create championship boxers. So why would we not utilize his value and bring it here in the CNMI and make it possible for the youth here to reach whatever capacity they want if we have a coach like this? So, let's take it all the way. That's our goal. And he has connections. He knows all these boxers. He knows [Manny] Pacquiao—he knows all the people."

Exhibition matches for the MBC are set for some time in December.

In the future, with Arrozal's connections and if boxing explodes in the CNMI, the MBC plans to have some fighters from South Korea, Japan, Philippines, and China make their way here for some competition and to check out their club facilities.

The training schedule for MBC is from Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:30pm for club members.

Club membership fee is $150 a year and $100 a month thereafter.

For more information, or if you want to join the Mauler Boxing Club, call Al Cabael (670) 429-4663 or coach (670) 789-8870 or email mboxingcnmi@gmail.com.

Castellanos hits 2 homers, as Phillies beat Braves 6-5 in 10.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

2nd TTT Mix Classic Fishing tourney to push on tomorrow.

PAGE 23

June Yu completes men's national tennis team

LEIGH GASES

June Yu is seen in action during the second day of CNMI Men's National Tennis Team tryouts last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Tennis Team heading to Honiara, Solomon Islands for the 2023 Pacific Games in November is now complete.

Fifteen-year-old June Yu bested two other hopefuls in a three-day tryout for the team. In the first matchup at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts last Monday, Yu defeated Simon Tang in two sets, 6-0, 7-5.

The next matchup on Tuesday, Yu won against 14-year-old Nason Wessel—losing the first set, 4-6, bouncing back in the second set, 6-3, then dominating the third set tie breaker, 10-6—for the fourth and last spot on the team.

Wessel then defeated Tang in three tough sets in the last matchup, 7-6, 3-6, 10-2, and secured the alternate position on the team.

Yu, a Mount Carmel School student, said on his selection into the team, "I would say I am very happy to be on the team and I would try my best on my matches!"

As for how he dominated the tryouts, he said "The competition was stressful and tiring. What I did to get the advantage in the game was to reset in the second set and play more aggressively and smarter."

The men's team is now made up of Yu, Moris Villanueva, Colin Ramsey, and La Hun Lam. Dr. Bobby Cruz, who was the fourth team member, pulled out of the team citing personal reasons, hence the

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Mauler Boxing Club sets sights on int'l stage

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The newly established Mauler Boxing Club located in the second floor of the Afetnas Building is setting its sights on the international boxing stage.

Under the tutelage of the club's coach and former No. 1 World Boxing Association Federation contender in the world, Miguel "Manila Mauler" Arrozal, they plan to get CNMI boxers—Jamaal Mresbang (junior middleweight), Albert Jackson (junior welterweight), Edryan Bayot (bantamweight), Gren Cepeda (junior middleweight), and Glaine Cepeda (junior featherweight)—potentially up into the international boxing arena.

Arrozal, now 55 years old, moved to Saipan in 2016, and with the help of businessman Al Cabael, made his dream of having a boxing club a reality. It came into fruition last April with their first club at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Cabael, the club's manager and promoter, said of the club, "It is a professional training gym, so it's not your typical boxing club. This is training to become a professional boxer."

Don King, promoter for boxing champion Mike Tyson, was also Arrozal's promoter—and was the first Filipino boxer King promoted.

Arrozal was also the world's sixth ranked pound-for-pound fighter of the International Boxing Federation—at the same time that Tyson was No. 1. Arrozal said that he and Tyson were close friends during his professional career. Arrozal was a professional boxer for about 17 years.

Arrozal mentioned that already, his friends who are promoters from New York, California, and Texas, are calling him up to see if he has boxers to bring out and compete.

A professional-sized boxing ring will complete their setup in their 4,000-square foot club. With that, the members can train in it and know what it's like to compete in the ring. Currently, their club space is an open layout for sparring, along with a few punching bags.

As a boxing coach, Arrozal said he teaches his students the four D's—dedication, discipline, devotion, and determination. He said that's why the ring comes in last because he wants the boxers to "first

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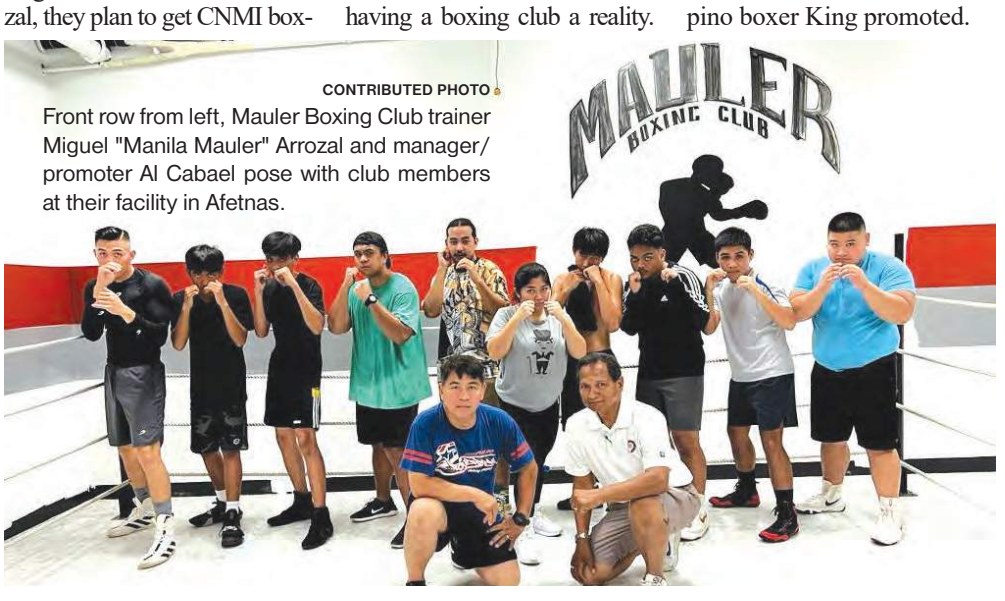

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row from left, Mauler Boxing Club trainer Miguel "Manila Mauler" Arrozal and manager/promoter Al Cabael pose with club members at their facility in Afetnas.

MP United teams scoop wins in intermediate women's soccer

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club's two teams scooped up wins in the first day of games of the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Fall 2023 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United 1 first defeated Kanoa FC 1, 3-0.

Rachel Salalila scampered through the pitch until she drew first blood in the 13th minute. Kanoa had no advantage as they tried to maneuver the pitch through the first half, but to no avail.

Kanoa still had goose eggs on the scoreboard when Michelle Masga made it a 2-0 game in the 34th minute of the second half.

Masga then scored the third goal in the 41st minute, and that was all they wrote as Kanoa went scoreless.

MP United 2 then slipped past Matansa FC, 2-1.

Moriah Sablan wasted no time as she found the back of the net for MP United in the second minute. Another goal by her teammate in the 27th minute made it 2-0, and while it seemed like Matansa would be blanked, they scored in the 31st minute. However, they couldn't get past MP United's goalie again and settled for the loss.

In other results, Paire FC 2 bested Shirley's FC, 2-1; and Latte FC won via forfeit over Kanoa FC 2.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MP United Football Club players pose for a photo after their game in the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Fall 2023 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.